



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

22 October 1991

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

DFLP Rejects Palestinian Delegates List [Voice of the Oppressed]	1
PFLP-GC's Jibril Holds Meetings in Tehran [Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]	1
Commentary Assails Egyptian Stance on Conference [Voice of Palestine]	1

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Peace Process [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT 18 Oct]	2
Cabinet Reviews Position on Peace Conference [Cairo Radio]	3
Mubarak, USSR's Pankin To Meet 'Arafat [MENA]	4
Musa, 'Arafat Adviser Discuss Conference [MENA]	4
'Arafat Arrives 'To Coordinate Arab Stands' [MENA]	5
Meets Musa, Mubarak [MENA]	5
'Arafat, Musa Comment [MENA]	5

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Government Receives Invitation to Peace Summit [WAKH]	7
Cabinet Hails Upcoming Conference [WAKH]	7
Manama, Sofia Establish Diplomatic Ties 19 Oct [WAKH]	7

Kuwait

Cabinet Sees 'Positive Signals' in Peace Conference [KUNA]	7
Egypt's Sidqi Arrives on Official Visit [Kuwait Radio]	8
Amir Greets Sidqi [KUNA]	8
Iraqi Army Patrols Spotted Near Northern Border [KUNA]	8

Oman

Minister of State Receives Baker Message [Muscat Radio]	8
Qabus Receives Message From USSR's Gorbachev [Muscat Radio]	8
Spokesman Hails Peace Conference, U.S. Endeavors [WAKH]	8

Saudi Arabia

Source Denies Tension in 'Flawless' U.S. Ties [SPA]	9
AL-YAWM Notes 'Sincere' U.S. Stance on Conference [SPA]	9
Trade Relations With Jordan To Be Resumed [AFP]	9
Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives in Jeddah 21 Oct [SANA]	10
Conveys al-Asad Message to Fahd [SPA]	10

United Arab Emirates

Minister Greet U.S.-Soviet Peace Initiative [WAKH]	10
Moroccan Troops Deployed Since Gulf Crisis Depart [WAKH]	10

IRAQ

Muharak To 'Pay Heavily' for Role in 'Conspiracy' [INA]	11
Paper Predicts CIA Will Oust Mubarak [INA]	11
Anti-U.S. Organization Formed in Baghdad [AL-JUMHURIYAH 17 Oct]	11
U.S.-Kuwaiti Force Reportedly 'Infiltrated' Farms [INA]	12
UN Delegate Refutes Nuclear Program Accusations [INA]	12
Arab League Sends Letter on Turkish Raids [Baghdad Radio]	12
National Reform Movement Leader Interviewed [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Oct]	12
Thousands From Karbala' Reportedly Tortured [Voice of Iraqi Opposition]	13

ISRAEL

Hostage Release Moves Viewed; Negotiators Comment	14
Death of Missing Soldier Confirmed [Jerusalem Radio]	14
Slonim Predicts Prisoner Releases [Jerusalem Radio]	14
'No Intention' To Free Prisoners [AFP]	14
SLA Frees 14 Shiites From Al-Khiyam [Jerusalem Radio]	14
Source: Release 'Humanitarian Gesture' [Jerusalem Radio]	14
Hizballah, IDF Moves in South Lebanon Viewed	15
No 'Special' UNIFIL Activity Seen [Jerusalem Radio]	15
Arens on Hizballah Attacks, MIA's [Jerusalem TV]	15
Arens on Nuclear 'Reality' in Region [Jerusalem Radio]	15
IDF Commander on Hizballah Activities [Jerusalem Radio]	15
Hizballah Operating 'Freely' [Jerusalem Radio]	16
11 Villages in al-Nabatiyah Area Closed [Jerusalem Radio]	16
Commentator on Hizballah Attacks [Jerusalem Radio]	16
Lebanese Demands on Overflights To Be Rejected [Jerusalem Radio]	17
UN Reports Israeli Overflights [Jerusalem Radio]	17
Explosion 'Slightly' Injures IDF Soldier 22 Oct [Tel Aviv Radio]	17
Suspected 'Terrorist' Injured in Jerusalem Blast [Jerusalem Radio]	17
'Terrorist' Dies of Wounds [Tel Aviv Radio]	17
West Bankers Banned From Jerusalem Until Sabbath [Jerusalem Radio]	17
IDF Expecting More Resistance, Settler Problems [HA'ARETZ 20 Oct]	17
Police Prepare for Attacks, Rallies [Jerusalem Radio]	18
Palestinian Delegates to Peace Conference Named	18
'Authoritative' List Published [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 21 Oct]	18
Advisory Group Will Wear 'Official' Tags [Jerusalem Radio]	18
Delegates Warned Against Attendance [Jerusalem Radio]	18
Opposition Clarifies Attendance Threats [Tel Aviv Radio]	19
Leaflet Urges Strike To Oppose Conference [Jerusalem Radio]	19
Leaders of Talks Delegation Still Not Confirmed [Jerusalem Radio]	19
Commentary Views Cabinet Agreement to Conference [DAVAR 20 Oct]	19
Shamir Tells Aide To Prepare for Autonomy Talks [HA'ARETZ 18 Oct]	20
Settlements Policy, Strategies for Talks Viewed	20
Civilian Status of Qela' Hailed [Jerusalem Radio]	20
Ceremony Delayed Due to 'Sensitivity' [Jerusalem Radio]	20
Settlers Plan 'Propaganda Campaign' [Jerusalem Radio]	21
Golan Group Plans 'Extreme Steps' [Tel Aviv Radio]	21
'Building Offensive' Planned [HADASHOT 21 Oct]	21
Likud Endorses Settlement Bill [Jerusalem Radio]	21
Nisim—No Halt in Settlements [Jerusalem Radio]	22
Opposition Leaders on National Unity Government	22
Peres on Unity Government With Likud [HADASHOT 21 Oct]	22
Rabin Opposes National Unity [Jerusalem Radio]	22
Rabin Remarks on Peace [Jerusalem Radio]	23

Value of Unity Government Viewed [HADASHOT 21 Oct]	23
Israeli Arab Involvement in Peace Process Urged [AL HAMISHMAR 20 Oct]	24
Levin Named Ambassador to Soviet Union [Jerusalem Radio]	25

JORDAN

King Receives Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin [Amman Radio]	26
Pankin Hails Jordan's Role [Amman Radio]	26
King, Pankin Discuss Conference [Amman Radio]	26
Pankin on Israeli Withdrawal [PETRA-JNA]	26
Al-Masri, Pankin View Issues [Amman Radio]	27
Pankin—"Very Successful" Talks [Amman Radio]	27
Pankin Departs 21 Oct [Amman Radio]	28
PLO's 'Arafat Comments on Peace Conference [PETRA-JNA]	28
Palestinian Negotiators Named; To Arrive 25 Oct [Paris Radio Monte Carlo]	28
No 'Official' Invitation to Damascus Meeting Yet [Amman Radio]	28

LEBANON

Jesse Turner Released, Headed for Damascus [VOL]	29
Arrives at Syrian Ministry [VOL]	29
Israel Said Obstructing Release of Hostages [AFP]	29
Islamic Jihad Denies Seeking Guarantees [AFP]	29
Al-Hirawi Issues Statement on Return From Syria [Beirut Radio]	29
Hizballah Hails al-Nabatiyah 'Heroic Operation' [Voice of the Oppressed]	29
Syrian Army Intervenes To End Clashes; 10 Dead [Beirut Radio]	30
Israel Steps Up Military Activity in South [AFP]	30

SYRIA

Former Hostage Turner Arrives in Damascus [AFP]	31
Turner Handed Over to Ambassador Ross [Damascus Radio]	31
Ambassador Expresses Thanks [SANA]	31
Al-Shar, USSR's Pankin Comment on Talks [SANA]	31
PLO's 'Arafat Praises 'Fraternal' Visit, Departs [Damascus Radio]	31
Coordination Needed To Foil Israeli 'Disruption' [Damascus Radio]	32

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Government Retakes Town Near Gardeyz [AFP]	33
Rebel Positions Around Jalalabad Being Bombed [THE PAKISTAN TIMES 20 Oct]	33

Bangladesh

Minister Denies Reports of Famine in North [Dhaka Radio]	34
Burmese Refugee 'Problem' Continues [AFP]	34

India

BJP Leader Accuses U.S. of 'Arm-Twisting' [PATRIOT 9 Oct]	35
National Group Opposes U.S. Stand on Patent Law [THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 12 Oct]	35
Associates of Gandhi Murder Suspect Arrested [Delhi Radio]	36

Iran

UN Envoy Kharrazi Surveys Regional Issues [IRNA]	36
Velayati—Fate of Peace Conference 'Clear' [Tehran Radio]	36
Plot To Blight Iran-Pakistan Ties Alleged [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 8 Oct]	37
Velayati Meets With Hizballah's Musawi [IRNA]	37

Commentary on Realizing Palestinian Aspirations [Tehran Radio]	38
Statistics Center Reports Average Income, Expenses [IRNA]	38
* Investments in Ghana Exceeding \$2.7 Million [SALAM 2 Oct]	39
* Varamin's New Mayor Named [Tehran ETTELA'AT 2 Oct]	39

Pakistan

Finance Minister on Trade, Development Aid [BANGKOK POST 17 Oct]	39
Sharif On Peaceful Relations With Neighbors [Islamabad Radio]	40

Sri Lanka

Security Forces Capture Strategic Islands [Colombo International]	40
Forces in 'Commanding' Position [Colombo International]	40

Palestinian Affairs

DFLP Rejects Palestinian Delegates List

NC1910081091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] led by Nayif Hawatimah has implicitly rejected the list of Palestinian delegates to the settlement conference that was handed to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

In a statement released in Damascus, the Front stressed that the composition of the delegation was not decided either by the PLO Central Council or the Executive Committee. The statement said that the decision passed by the Central Council, despite the implicit retractions in it which the DFLP rejected proceeding from its strict adherence to the Palestine National Council resolutions, reiterated the right of the PLO to name its delegation from outside and inside the homeland, including Jerusalem.

PFLP-GC's Jibril Holds Meetings in Tehran

JN1810193791 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab
Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Report by radio correspondent in Tehran]

[Excerpt] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], met with the Iranian deputy foreign minister today. They discussed the latest developments and preparations under way for the international conference to support the intifadah.

A meeting was held last night between leaders of the PFLP-GC and the Islamic Jihad Movement. Secretary General Ahmad Jibril and Political Bureau members 'Umar al-Shihabi and Fadl Shururu represented the PFLP-GC at the meeting. The Islamic Jihad Movement was represented by Dr. Fathi al-Shuqai, Mr. Abu-Hasan, Mr. Tal'at, and a number of other leading figures. They discussed the latest regional developments.

Another meeting was held last night between a delegation from Hizballah, comprising 'Abbas al-Musawai and a number of Hizballah Political Bureau members, and a delegation from the PFLP-GC, led by Secretary General Ahmad Jibril, and consisting of Political Bureau members 'Umar al-Shihabi and Fadl Shururu. They discussed current affairs and ways to achieve agreement in views about the issues being presented to the international conference to support the intifadah, scheduled to open in Tehran tomorrow.

Shaykh Mahir Hammud and a number of ulemas met in Tehran with Ahmad Jibril and 'Umar al-Shihabi. They discussed preparations for the conference. [passage omitted]

Commentary Assails Egyptian Stance on Conference

JN2110205491 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1615 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Unattributed "talk"]

[Text] The present regime in Egypt is most eager and enthusiastic for America's conference. It is forging the facts and using slogans only as a means to commit the ugliest crimes and violations. The ruler in Egypt knew that the United States had decided to strike Iraq—years before the issue of Kuwait. When that event took place, he seized the opportunity to dominate the arena under slogans being raised by the United States, exploit fragmentation and division and strike the nation, and use the excuses which he believed would make his bias toward corruption and evil acceptable.

So, the role of the ruler in Egypt was drawn up accurately. He was ready for the role he played, and which he bragged about in order to go with Mrs. America to her conference and pursue her security plan with which she controls the region, threatens the Third World, dominates Europe and Japan, and dismantles the Soviet Union.

This is not a conference that will achieve a just and lasting peace, or that will implement the resolutions of international legitimacy on the Palestine question. The proof is the exclusion of the United Nations, the mother of those resolutions, by America and Tel Aviv. So, it is a conspiracy and an insistence on evil and aggression, not a just and lasting peace. It is a dirty conspiracy, not just a sweet betrayal of people. They will not deceive anyone except themselves.

The regime in Egypt used to talk about the legitimacy. Resolutions 242 and 338, the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by force, and the Zionist settlement which represents a perpetual aggression in order to reach the point where he can say that there is historic circumstances for saving the region from tension and instability. Has the 50-year old situation been mere tension and instability? Who has occupied the land by force, and whose land is it? Where are the owners of that land? Who has practiced stealing, settlement, and continued aggression? Is this aggression considered to be merely tension and instability? Why all this patience toward those who occupied other people's land by force? What is the meaning of patience for 40, 20, and 10 years? Where was that patience in August 1990? Why was not there one day, or even an hour of patience? Was it America that did not allow patience? Decent people have disappeared!

Egypt

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Peace Process

TA1810124291 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
(LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 18 Oct 91 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Smadar Peri in Cairo—date not given]

[Text] [Peri] Mr. Foreign Minister, many Israelis suspect that the Arab side is coming to the peace conference to get territories. Israel will be asked to withdraw, but ultimately there will not be real peace.

[Musa] Then let me note at the same time that there are those on the Arab side who suspect that Israel will receive Arab recognition, but that the Arabs will get nothing in return. The suspicion is mutual, and I consider it natural at this stage. There is no trust, and each side is digging in its heels. As an observer from the side, I definitely can see the need to create mutual confidence.

[Peri] Let us switch from declarative statements to plain speaking. When you, Mr. Minister, talk of establishing mutual trust and confidence, what do you mean?

[Musa] Nobody wants Israel to give everything for nothing; nor can Israel delude itself that it can make demands without giving up something in return. This is a process of give and take, and it must be conducted fairly. Territories for peace. Rights for rights. Recognition in return for recognition. Security in return for security.

[Peri] It is very clear what the Arabs want from Israel; however, it is still unclear what the Arabs are willing to give in return.

[Musa] The Arabs are ready to recognize Israel.

[Peri] To recognize Israel. Is that all?

[Musa] To recognize Israel and to establish relations with Israel.

[Peri] Mr. Minister, I expect to hear you say the word peace. You demand that Israel withdraw, and then propose that the Arabs recognize the existence of Israel.

[Musa] When the Arabs hold negotiations with Israel, and you promise to withdraw from all the territories and recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, then will this be the beginning with a capital B.

[Peri] Mr. Minister, I detect that you are phrasing your statements very carefully. You are speaking about an Israeli withdrawal and about recognition of our presence in the region. I would like to hear you make a more serious commitment: that the negotiations will lead to peace between the Arabs and Israel.

[Musa] I am talking about a peace that will be reached on the basis of an Israeli withdrawal and the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

[Peri] This week we witnessed a change for the worse in the Syrian position. Israel suspects that Syria wants to get the Golan Heights and to give Israel peanuts in return: a declaration of the termination of the state of war between our two countries, and no more.

[Musa] This does not tally with what I know. Syria is entering the peace process in order to conduct negotiations based on the principle of territories for peace. These negotiations are meant to achieve peace.

[Peri] What kind of peace? What nature will the peace between Israel and Syria assume?

[Musa] I am talking about a normal peace. Syria and Israel will be the ones to decide the basic principles of the peace between them.

[Peri] We have already received a negative signal from Damascus. Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, and the Maghreb countries have agreed to join the talks on regional cooperation. Syria, however, has refused.

[Musa] Syria has not refused. If the negotiations are held on the basis of territories for peace, Syria will participate in all the discussions. As long as there is no certainty that this will be the basis for the discussions, however, the Syrians—and not only the Syrians—have grave doubts. Anyone who is closely following the process has doubts regarding the intentions of the Israeli Government.

[Peri] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has a reputation in Israel as a very calculating and cautious man. What is al-Asad being so careful about now?

[Musa] I do not discern any hesitation on al-Asad's part. I can see that he has doubts regarding what lies behind Israel's readiness to attend the peace conference. President al-Asad wants to be sure that the peace process will be conducted according to the correct principle, and I remind you once again: This means territories for peace. The Israeli Government, however, is saying "no" to territories for peace; the Israeli Government is continuing to set up settlements in the territories; and Israel's interpretation regarding the solution of the problem differs from that accepted by the entire world.

[Peri] But Mr. Minister, having participated in the Egyptian delegation to the negotiations with Israel, you must remember the extreme declarations issued on the eve of the talks. Everybody made sure to issue extreme statements.

[Musa] I agree with you. I well remember the extreme declarations, which were subsequently proven false. I accept the fact that floating extreme declarations is part of the tactics, on condition that these statements are only issued to make a point and not to create facts.

[Peri] Perhaps you could explain what you mean, Mr. Foreign Minister?

[Musa] The settlements in the territories. You not only make statements, but you actually establish new settlements in the territories. I would like to make an unequivocal

declaration: It will not be possible to sit down at the negotiations table without an immediate halt to these settlements. It is as though we had a cake to cut up: One cannot hold a discussion on who gets what piece of the cake with one party gnawing at and taking huge bites out of it. Imagine the kind of situation we could find ourselves in: A decision is made that one party gets a piece of the cake; one marks the slice, but suddenly the cake disappears.

[Peri] Israel and the Arab countries are ostensibly going to attend peace negotiations. Actually, people in Israel fear that the negotiations will not end in peace but in an Israeli withdrawal from the territories.

[Musa] I would like to take this opportunity to tell the Israelis and the Israeli Government that peace is not something to be feared. Peace will bring Israel, as well as the Arab side, many more advantages and benefits than any other situation.

[Peri] With all due respect, Mr. Minister, the picture you are painting is rosier than reality. Israel's peace with Egypt has not met all the expectations. Israel withdrew from Sinai, but the normalization with Egypt is not so...

[Musa] We have normalization: diplomatic relations, open borders, contacts, ties.

[Peri] But you must agree, Mr. Minister, that these relations could be fuller, imbued with more content.

[Musa] I do not agree with you. Relations between our countries are perfectly normal. It is true that there are difficulties and disagreements, but this is natural and normal. Each side can express a certain position that stands contrary to that of the other party. This does lead to disagreements; however, relations are normal. I am neither concerned nor worried by the differences between us, but whoever thinks that peace was meant to obligate Egypt to adopt Israel's positions is simply dreaming.

[Peri] In addition to the Arab demand that Israel withdraw from the territories, there is still some contention over the status of Jerusalem.

[Musa] It is inconceivable that Jerusalem not be included in the negotiations. The decision adopted by the Israeli Government on Jerusalem does not obligate the Arabs. Jerusalem will be an issue for discussion, and we will either reach a solution according to the Israeli viewpoint or find some other solution.

[Peri] But the Israeli Government claims that Jerusalem is not a subject for negotiations.

[Musa] That will not happen. After all, the Israeli Government declared that "everything" is open for negotiations. One cannot speak of "everything" and then say that Jerusalem is out.

[Peri] In light of the efforts currently being made by the Arab side to achieve coordination, Israel will find itself facing an inter-Arab coalition. There will be an Israeli delegation facing a united Arab bloc.

[Musa] No, Israel will hold separate negotiations with independent delegations. An Israeli delegation opposite a Syrian delegation, a Jordanian delegation, a Palestinian delegation, and a Lebanese delegation.

[Peri] This week, the Arab countries and the Palestinians are coordinating positions prior to the negotiations, right under Israel's nose.

[Musa] I do not understand how, why, and with what right Israel is expressing anger about the coordination of positions within the Arab world. Why should there not be such coordination?

[Peri] How are you preparing yourselves? Have you set up think tanks or work teams?

[Musa] Certainly. Our work teams are perusing the international precedents of peace achievements and are using material we collected during the negotiations with Israel.

[Peri] Egypt is ostensibly a neutral party. You are not in a state of conflict with any of the parties invited to the peace conference. However, Mr. Minister, I believe I discerned even with you a certain sense that not everything is completely wrapped up.

[Musa] Due to the differences and disagreements, I would suggest that we not jump too soon. I am only giving the convening of the peace conference slightly more than a 50-percent chance.

[Peri] You say this when Prime Minister Shamir, when asked what odds he would give that the conference will convene, smiled and said: 100 percent. The only question is when.

[Musa] You see, there is not a big difference. We basically said exactly the same thing.

[Peri] On the basis of your talks in Damascus, do you see a chance for an open border between Syria and Israel and the establishment of an Israeli cultural center in Damascus?

[Musa] Why not? If Israel withdraws from the Golan Heights, the possibility exists.

[Peri] And if not? What if Israel refuses to withdraw from the Golan Heights?

[Musa] In that case, I see absolutely nothing.

Cabinet Reviews Position on Peace Conference

NC2010160091 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi presided over the cabinet meeting today. The cabinet reviewed the efforts Egypt is exerting to push the wheel of peace and convene the international peace conference in Madrid at the end of this month. This came in a statement by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif after the four-hour meeting. Al-Sharif said that the cabinet discussed the report submitted by Foreign Minister 'Ame Musa. The report noted that Egypt has

received an invitation to attend the conference from the United States and the Soviet Union. It also pointed out that invitations have been issued to Syria, Jordan, the Palestinians, and Lebanon, which are the countries concerned with the issue. Invitations have also been sent to a number of Arab countries, he said. The report noted that Egypt has been invited to take part in the peace conference and will attend as an observer in the bilateral committees that will stem from the conference.

The information minister said that the Foreign Ministry report stressed that Egypt's participation and role will be active and will support the Palestinian people's rights. He pointed out that Egypt's position is in full agreement with international legitimacy to arrive at a genuine peace and permanent settlement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and respect for the principle of land for peace. He noted that attaining this goal will be difficult as there are differences in view and hence, the talks will be difficult—but important—and will require patience and perseverance by the parties concerned on adhering to legitimate rights. It is important for Israel to understand and respect these rights to achieve peace, which is the essence and goal of convening the peace conference.

Al-Sharif pointed out that the Foreign Ministry report underlined Egypt's clear position and President Mubarak's statement that Egypt adheres to the position on the need to halt the building of settlements and resolve the issue of Jerusalem, which concerns every Muslim and Christian. He said that the cabinet stressed that Egypt will support just principles as well as insistence on and adherence to all Arab rights, because this is the real guarantee of a lasting and comprehensive peace. He stressed that Egypt will not accept any concession regarding Arab and Palestinian rights. The cabinet affirmed that Egypt, which restored all its territory, will accept nothing less for every Arab territory. [passage omitted]

Mubarak, USSR's Pankin To Meet 'Arafat

NC2010152891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1459 GMT
20 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that Palestinian President Yasser 'Arafat and Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin, both of whom will arrive in Cairo tomorrow, will meet the day after tomorrow to discuss arrangements for the peace process and the convening of the peace conference. The meeting will be followed by a news conference. It is worth noting that President Mubarak will meet with the Soviet foreign minister after his arrival tomorrow. President Mubarak is expected to meet with Yasser 'Arafat, who will arrive tomorrow evening for a 24-hour visit.

Musa, 'Arafat Adviser Discuss Conference

NC2010192791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1758 GMT
20 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Oct (MENA)—This evening Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political

adviser to Palestinian President Yasser 'Arafat and chairman of the Palestine National Council Political Committee. The meeting was attended by Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal.

In a statement after the meeting, Dr. Nabil Sha'th said the meeting was important and positive and that the discussions dealt with arrangements for Yasser 'Arafat's visit to Cairo on 21 October and his meeting with President Husni Mubarak.

The Palestinian official added that all the recent developments were also discussed. He said: We informed 'Amr Musa of the formation of the Palestinian delegation under the chairmanship of Faysal al-Husayni [as received].

He noted that the discussions also dealt with Palestinian-Egyptian coordination regarding the coming phase of negotiations and the peace conference scheduled for 30 October in Madrid.

He emphasized that Egyptian negotiating experience will be a boost for Palestinians to regain their rights through this peace operation.

Regarding the accusations made by Ghassan al-Khatib, who is nominated for membership in the Palestinian delegation, that Egypt has impeded Arab coordination, Dr. Nabil Sha'th said that Egypt has employed all its capabilities and has always supported Palestinian rights. The fact is that Egypt has spared no effort to regain Palestinian rights.

He added: We look forward to having the closest coordination so that Egypt will support us during the negotiations, just as it has always supported us in the years of struggle to liberate the land.

Regarding what has been said about a meeting of the parties concerned with the Middle East crisis, he said: We hope that an Arab summit will be held because Arab coordination is supposed to take place before meeting with the Israeli negotiator.

He said that it is inconceivable for the Arab delegations to meet at the conference for the first time without prior coordination among them. Dr. Nabil Sha'th noted that the Palestinian president's tour aims to establish minimum coordination through talks with President Husni Mubarak, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, and King Husayn of Jordan.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th said that the list of the names of the members of the official Palestinian delegation will be presented to the U.S. secretary of state tomorrow. He said that the Palestinian delegation will consist of 14 members under the chairmanship of 71-year-old Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, former chairman of the legislative council in Gaza during the Egyptian administration of the sector, and current chairman of the Palestinian Red Crescent society.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th noted that Palestinian struggler Faysal al-Husayni will be the delegation's general coordinator and that Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi will be the delegation's official

spokesperson. The delegation will also have six advisers. Dr. Nabil Sha'th said that, after his visit to Cairo, President 'Arafat will go to Paris in response to an invitation from French President Francois Mitterrand's office.

'Arafat Arrives 'To Coordinate Arab Stands'

NC2110072791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT
21 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this morning at the head of a high-level Palestinian delegation. 'Arafat last visited Cairo 14 months ago.

During his visit he will hold talks with Egyptian officials, aiming to coordinate Arab stands at the peace conference. 'Arafat was received at Cairo International Airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Meets Musa, Mubarak

NC2110093191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0842 GMT
21 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Soon after his arrival in Cairo this morning, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat met Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa at 'Arafat's temporary residence.

The one-hour meeting was attended by the PLO leader's delegation: Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister and head of the PLO Political Department; PLO Executive Committee members Jamal al-Surani, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Sulayman al-Najjab; Nabil Sha'th, member of Fatah Central Committee; Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador to Cairo; and alternate Ambassador Zuhdi al-Qidrah.

Ambassador Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt, director of the Egyptian foreign minister's office, and a number of Foreign Ministry advisers also attended. 'Arafat and Musa then left for a meeting with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. [Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0904 GMT on 21 October reports: "President Husni Mubarak today received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, who arrived in Cairo this morning."]

'Arafat, Musa Comment

NC2110131791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1136 GMT
21 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Oct (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said that he was pleased to meet President Husni Mubarak this morning, saying: We love and appreciate President Mubarak very much. We, as Palestinians and Arabs, have strong bonds with President Mubarak, he added, particularly at this crucial juncture in the history of the Arab people.

'Arafat said: We are at the gates of the international conference, which will be held on 30 October in Madrid, which makes consultations even more necessary.

'Arafat noted that his visit to Egypt is part of a tour that took him to Damascus and Amman. These comments came during a noon news conference 'Arafat and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held in Al-Andalus Palace, where 'Arafat is staying.

My talks with President Mubarak were important and constructive in every way, 'Arafat said, particularly with regard to the peace process and the coming peace moves. We have agreed on further consultations among five countries: Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine, as well as among other Arab countries that will take part in the conference, 'Arafat added.

We hope that the conference will usher in a new and promising phase for the Middle East, 'Arafat added, and that it will lead to the restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people to which U.S. President Bush referred in his 6 March initiative.

'Arafat said: You may recall that we launched a Palestinian initiative at the 1988 Palestine National Council meeting. I announced that initiative in Geneva later on. We also agreed to the 10 points announced last year by President Mubarak. We also agreed to Secretary Baker's five points. We now welcome the convocation of the peace conference announced by Presidents Bush and Gorbachev.

Following the same policy, the PLO leader continued, we have facilitated Secretary Baker's moves and meetings with the Palestinians in the occupied territories and in Washington, Jerusalem, and Amman. We will follow up these moves in order to establish a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region, 'Arafat said.

'Arafat mentioned the agreement on holding a meeting of the five Arab countries' foreign ministers in Damascus soon. He said he will meet with the Soviet foreign minister in Paris at a later date, adding that the meeting was agreed upon before he began his Middle East tour.

'Arafat commented on the Jerusalem issue and the representation of the Palestinians in Jerusalem and whether the invitation addressed to Faysal al-Husayni to attend the peace conference was like pulling the rug from under the PLO's feet. He said: Do not forget that I have appointed Faysal al-Husayni head of the Palestinian negotiating team. As for the Jerusalem issue, let us wait until the conference and then you will see how the problem is solved.

On Moroccan King Hassan II's mission in Washington, 'Arafat said King Hassan had conveyed a message to Bush in the name of the Arab Maghreb group asserting the need for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, halting the building of settlements, recovering Arab Jerusalem and the Palestinian people's rights, and linking the phases of solution. President Bush, he added, had mentioned an important point, which is the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights. This is the first time Bush used the term political rights.

Asked to comment on Israel's announcement this morning that the Palestinian delegation was formed after Israel had

agreed on the delegation, he said: This is a silly question and I will not answer Israel's impudence. If they have the right to object to the Palestinian delegation, then we should also have the right to object to their delegation.

On what he expects from the peace conference, 'Arafat said: We want to achieve what President Bush announced in his 6 March speech—land for peace, the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem, and recovery of the Palestinian people's legitimate political rights.

Commenting on the stand of some Palestinian factions opposed to the conference, he said: This is our democracy and we should respect it. The majority respects the view of the minority and the minority complies with the majority's decision.

On how the contact and coordination between Tunis and Madrid will be, he said: Do not worry, we have good coordination.

Asked about the absence of the PLO as a representative of the Palestinian delegation, he said: Every Palestinian represents the PLO.

On not resuming the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, he said: Regrettably it has not been resumed despite the resumption of Soviet-Israeli ties. There is no similar dealing between us and the United States, and this represents a weak point in communication for the U.S. side as chairman of the conference. He noted: I am speaking here about official recognition.

Commenting on the building of settlements which has not stopped, he said: All parties have declared that the settlements are illegal and an obstacle to peace. We will wait for the conference to begin and see how this issue is dealt with.

Asked whether he has received a copy of the U.S. letter of guarantees, he said: We have received a copy through our representatives in Jerusalem and we regard it as inadequate.

'Amr Musa was asked about Egypt's role. He said: The whole role depends on the progress of negotiations during the conference. We are now on our way to the conference, where all points of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem will be put forth for negotiation. All this will be put on the negotiating table without exception with a view to achieving a just, durable, and comprehensive peace that respects all parties' rights and the implementation of the principle of exchanging land for peace.

'Amr Musa said: The U.S. initiative, which has been accepted by all parties, contains several points. Let us see what happens during the talks. The important thing is implementing the principle of land for peace and recognizing the rights of all parties, especially the Palestinian people. The whole world wants peace, which cannot be achieved without Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and without exchanging land for peace.

Asked whether disarmament will be discussed during the conference, Musa said: Disarmament is important for the region and the whole world. Regarding the Middle East, we believe that weapons of mass destruction should be eliminated from the region, starting with nuclear weapons. This should be applied to all states and parties. All the states of the region, without exception, should abide by this commitment.

Asked about Egypt's participation in the conference, Musa said: Egypt will participate as an invited party and will attend all the stages and steps of the conference. As for direct negotiations, they are based on bilateral committees in which Egypt will not participate. Egypt will follow these negotiations and participate in them only if any party invites it to participate.

At this point 'Arafat interrupted to say: We demand the continuation of the Egyptian role as a participant party with the Palestinian side.

Elaborating, Musa said: The Egyptian role supports the just Palestinian demands within the framework of implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. This is a matter of principle and is clear in the Egyptian stand.

Asked whether Egypt can play a mediating role, Musa said: I have repeatedly said that we are not mediators but we are an Arab state and part of the Arab position. However, we have the benefit of being able to contact all the parties and we can speak with the Israelis, if necessary. In fact, we are using all our diplomatic power to help establish peace and reach a peace agreement. This will be useful to all the parties, including Israel.

Asked about Syria's refusal to take part in the subsequent stage of the conference, which is related to regional issues, Musa said: There is no Syrian rejection but there are different viewpoints. Syria will participate in the conference and will embark on the peace negotiations with an open mind and with determination on its rights. We support this.

At this point 'Arafat interrupted to say: President Mubarak informed me that he will participate, and that he will support Syrian and Palestinian rights.

Bahrain

Government Receives Invitation to Peace Summit

JN2010144391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT
20 Oct 91

[Text] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH)—Shaykh Khalid Al Khalifah, housing minister and acting foreign minister of Bahrain, has received an official invitation from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin for Bahrain to participate in the Middle East peace conference scheduled to be held in Madrid on 30 October.

The minister received the invitation from USSR Ambassador Anatoliy Gavryuchenko and U.S. Charge d'Affaires David Robins, who called on him today.

Cabinet Hails Upcoming Conference

JN2010143591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1215 GMT
20 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 20 Oct (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah chaired an ordinary Council of Ministers' meeting today. [passage omitted]

His highness reviewed developments in the political situation, and said that Bahrain welcomes the U.S.-Soviet call for holding the Middle East peace conference at the end of this month, which constitutes a historic opportunity for achieving a just and lasting solution to Middle Eastern issues, and for realizing a peaceful settlement based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. His highness also hailed the participation of President Bush and Soviet President Gorbachev in the opening session. He said that this proves their full determination to have the peace conference achieve its desired objectives.

His highness the Bahraini prime minister stressed the importance of adopting a unified Arab stand before the outset of the peace negotiations, and of full coordination of views and opinions to support the Arab negotiators during these fateful negotiations. His highness hoped that the peace talks would achieve the aspirations of the region's peoples and states in peace and stability and support the issues of development and construction. [passage omitted]

Manama, Sofia Establish Diplomatic Ties 19 Oct

JN1910180291 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1437 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Manama, 19 Oct (WAKH)—Bahrain and Bulgaria today decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level.

This decision fulfills a wish by the governments of both countries to develop their friendship and cooperation in various areas, a Bahrain Foreign Ministry statement said. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Cabinet Sees 'Positive Signals' in Peace Conference

LD2010144891 London KUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 20
Oct 91

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Oct (KUNA)—The State of Kuwait has reiterated its welcome for the "positive signals" emanating from the parties concerned with regard to the Middle East peace conference and expressed its hope that the current efforts will lead to a just and comprehensive solution to the region's problems which will restore to the Palestinian people their legitimate rights and lay the foundation for a lasting peace and stability in the region.

This was stated by Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Duri 'Abdallah al-Uthman during the Council of Ministers' meeting here today under the chairmanship of Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'id al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah.

The Council of Ministers also welcomed the visit which the Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi will pay to Kuwait tomorrow at the head of a high-level delegation stressing the importance of the visit in the further bolstering of bilateral cooperation between Egypt and Kuwait. The Council was acquainted with the efforts being exerted to control the burning oil fields and the expected control of all wells within a short period in view of the great progress achieved so far by the firefighting operations.

Following the Council of Ministers' meeting, Minister of State Duri 'Abdallah al-Uthman said that the Council discussed a number of political matters and reviewed the most important new developments in the international, Arab, and regional political areas, and the international efforts being exerted at all levels toward holding a Middle East peace conference in Madrid on 30 October, now that the United States and the USSR have issued invitations to the parties concerned to take part in it.

The Council of Ministers expressed its pleasure at these positive signals and expressed its profound hope that the diligent efforts being exerted would result in a just and comprehensive solution for the Middle East question leading to the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and toward laying down the foundations for lasting peace and stability in the region.

Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nanir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan explained in detail the good response shown by a number of well-known world financial institutions with regard to their participation in financing the \$5-billion loan Kuwait has asked for, under easy terms and without the need for guarantees or securities, to help Kuwait meet its various commitments following the loss of its sources of income as a result of the criminal destruction and burning of all the Kuwaiti oil wells and installations by the forces of the treacherous Iraqi regime.

The Council of Ministers expressed its profound pleasure at this response and the fact that it reflects great world confidence in Kuwait's ability to return to its former secure and stable conditions, as well as in the future of its national economy. [passage omitted on hope for controlling fires in oilfields]

The Council of Ministers was then informed of the message received by the amir of Kuwait from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, which was carried to the amir from the Senegalese presidential office, and which contained an invitation to the amir to attend the 6th Islamic Summit Conference, scheduled to be held in Dakar from 9 to 12 December 1991.

Egypt's Sidqi Arrives on Official Visit

NC2110110791 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1000 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Excerpt] His Excellency, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi arrived in Kuwait today on an official visit. He was invited by heir apparent and prime minister, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al- 'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah. [passage omitted]

Amir Greets Sidqi

LD2110112791 London KUNA in Arabic 1037 GMT
21 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 21 Oct (KUNA)— At 1300 this afternoon, His Highness the amir of Kuwait received Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, the prime minister of the sisterly Arab Republic of Egypt, and the delegation accompanying him, on the occasion of his visit to Kuwait. His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and other ministers were present at the meeting. [Passage omitted]

Iraqi Army Patrols Spotted Near Northern Border

LD2010112691 London KUNA in Arabic 1018 GMT
20 Oct 91

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Oct (KUNA)—The newspaper 'AL-SIYASAH' today quoted informed sources as saying that patrols at the al-Abraq checkpoint, which lies at the northern Kuwaiti border, managed to spot three tents pitched along the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, and alongside them were five Iraqi Army patrols. The paper, quoting these sources, pointed out that the tents lie north of the al-Abraq checkpoint by about 6 kilometers. They were seen in the evening of the day before yesterday.

The sources said that in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions, Iraq is not allowed to build anything in the demilitarized zone and that the Iraqi action violates these resolutions.

Oman

Minister of State Receives Baker Message

JN1910142491 Muscat Radio Oman Network
in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, has received a message from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker dealing with details pertaining to the international peace conference on the Middle East scheduled to be convened in Madrid on 30 October under the cochairmanship of the United States and the Soviet Union. The message was conveyed by the acting charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in the Sultanate.

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah also received (David Mack), deputy assistant U.S. secretary of state, who is currently visiting the Sultanate. During the meeting, they discussed the Middle East peace conference, issues pertaining to bilateral relations, and the current situation in the Gulf region.

Qabus Receives Message From USSR's Gorbachev

JN1910133191 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic
1300 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has received a message from Excellency Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet ambassador to the Sultanate conveyed the message during his meeting with his majesty the sultan today.

Spokesman Hails Peace Conference, U.S. Endeavors

JN1910182391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1740 GMT
19 Oct 91

[Text] Muscat, 19 Oct (WAKH)—The Sultanate of Oman has welcomed the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's Middle East tour, which has secured agreement from all parties to attend a peace conference set to convene in Madrid on 30 October.

An official Omani Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the Sultanate's government appreciates the ceaseless efforts by the U.S. Administration to bring peace to the Middle East predicated on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He also commended the contributions made by other world parties, including the USSR and Europe.

The spokesman praised the Arab consent to go to the conference, thus again demonstrating to the international community a genuine Arab interest in attaining a fair and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

He hoped that the conference would yield the results awaited by the Palestinian people, results that would allow them to exercise their legitimate, national rights, as well as allow the people of the region to enjoy security

and stability and the ability to turn their attention to developing their resources and removing the climate of confrontation and tension.

Saudi Arabia

Source Denies Tension in 'Flawless' U.S. Ties

LD1810103691 Riyadh SPA in English
1311 GMT 16 Oct 91

[Text] Jeddah, Oct. 16, SPA—In response to reports published by the British newspaper 'GUARDIAN' and the American 'NEW YORK TIMES', which were quoted by Radio London on Monday, about the existence of tension in the U.S.-Saudi relations for alleged reasons, an official source told SPA yesterday: In confirmation of what the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has previously announced, through the statements of an official source, about categorically denying such alleged reports, we would like to explain anew that the reports published by the above mentioned newspapers concerning U.S.-Saudi relations are completely devoid of any truth. "The relations binding the two countries, as we have previously said, are flawless and based on mutual respect and deep understanding of their joint interests in all fields," the source said.

AL-YAWM Notes 'Sincere' U.S. Stance on Conference

LD1310143191 Riyadh SPA in English
1240 GMT 13 Oct 91

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 13, SPA—Saudi newspapers today editorially commented on the American peace initiative for the Middle East, the latest irrational attitude of Israel and exposure of secret stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction by Iraq.

The al-Dammam-based AL-YAWM praised the sincere American stance to support all available opportunities to convene a peace conference for the Middle East. This instance has further deepened the peace prospects in the region, it said. In return, the Arabs have welcomed seriously the American initiative, but Israel is still embroiled in its negative attitude towards efforts to resolve the crisis, the paper said. It called on the United States to impress upon Israel to comply with the international legislation.

The Jeddah based AL-MADINA said Washington desires a new world order based on settlement of issues including the Middle East conflict. This cannot be realized unless the Palestinian problem is resolved according to the United Nations resolutions and the principle of land for peace, it added. It stressed that the Arab nation must pay more attention to Israeli tactics.

For its part, the Jeddah-based AL-BILAD said it is necessary to change prevailing thinking in Israel and enforce it to live in a world community, which aspires

stability. It highlighted the importance of new Arab views on efforts underway to bring about peace in the Middle East.

The Jeddah-based 'UKAZ regretted the recently held so-called Arab popular powers conference in Baghdad with its puppet groups and representatives, which Iraq falsely described as delegates of the Arab people. In reality, the paper said the Iraqi regime is completely isolated in Arab and international arenas.

AL-JAZIRAH welcomed the latest U.N. resolution to inspect Iraqi military industries and said it represented the international community's desire to live in a stable and peaceful world.

Commenting on the same topic, AL-RIYADH said the current situation in Iraq now reflects aggressive intentions of the Iraqi regime to stockpile destructive weapons.

The Mecca-based AL-NADAWAH felt that the Security Council's resolution is a natural result of the foolish behavior of the Iraqi regime.

Trade Relations With Jordan To Be Resumed

NC1710182791 Paris AFP in English 1818 GMT
17 Oct 91

[Text] Riyadh, Oct 17 (AFP) - Saudi Arabia has decided to resume trading with Jordan, which it suspended during the Gulf crisis on grounds that Amman adopted a pro-Iraqi position, informed sources said here Thursday.

From Thursday, Jordanian products will be allowed to enter Saudi Arabia and Saudi exporters will be entitled to do business again in Jordan.

Before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, dozens of refrigerator trucks carrying fruit, vegetables and other produce entered Saudi Arabia from Jordan each day.

But Saudi authorities, displeased with the position of King Husayn, later slapped punitive economic restrictions on Jordan.

King Husayn rejected the Iraqi seizure of Kuwait but was likewise harshly critical of the Saudi-based U.S.-led military coalition that eventually attacked Iraq and forced its troops to abandon the emirate.

Sources here also expect the Saudi flag-carrier Saudia to resume flights to Amman next week. Royal Jordanian Airlines had been allowed to continue serving cities in Saudi Arabia.

While Amman and Riyadh were at odds during the Gulf crisis, they are both supporters of a Middle East peace conference proposed for later this month by the Soviet Union and the United States.

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives in Jeddah 21 Oct

JN2110180991 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1755 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Jeddah, 21 Oct (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Jeddah this evening. He was welcomed at Jeddah International Airport by Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal, and the Syrian consul general in Jeddah.

Conveys al-Asad Message to Fahd

LD2210053491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT
21 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 21 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

The message was conveyed by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' when he was received by the custodian of the two holy mosques at his office in al-Salam Palace today.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Jeddah earlier today. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates**Minister Greets U.S.-Soviet Peace Initiative**

JN1910141591 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1155 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 19 Oct (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] has welcomed yesterday's official U.S.-Soviet announcement on convening the Middle East peace conference in Madrid on 30 October.

UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah made these remarks when he met with U.S. Ambassador Edward Walker this afternoon. The foreign minister expressed hope that the conference will be a step in the right direction toward finding a comprehensive and just settlement to the Arab-Israeli dispute, restoring the occupied Arab territories in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and establishing peace, stability, and security in the region. [passage omitted]

Moroccan Troops Deployed Since Gulf Crisis Depart

JN1710150091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT
17 Oct 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Oct (WAKH)—The Moroccan troops stationed in the United Arab Emirates [UAE] since the start of the Gulf crisis left Abu Dhabi today.

Major General Matar Salim al-Zahiri, UAE assistant Army chief of staff for administration and logistics affairs, led those who bid the troops farewell. The Moroccan troops were also seen off by a number of UAE Armed Forces officers.

Mubarak To 'Pay Heavily' for Role in 'Conspiracy'
*JN1810095391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0913 GMT
18 Oct 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has said that the Egyptian president, who is packing his bags to head for the conference of capitulation, feels that he is in need of a political and media cover to make the people of Egypt and the Arab nation forget the meaning of his participation. In its "A Stand" column, the paper adds: Of course, the best and easiest cover he was able to find, given the current circumstances, was to speak about conditions deemed necessary to lift the blockade on Iraq and to outbid Bush himself in this regard.

AL-THAWRAH says that Husni began to discover that the reward he has been paid thus far for his role in the conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation is very small and does not befit the services he rendered, the disgraceful efforts he made, or the losses sustained, and the blood shed by the Egyptian Army. He realized he will pay heavily for his role in the conspiracy, at the expense of his political future. Because of this, he is trying—by way of his one-upmanship—to remind his Arab and American masters and allies of his presence, his important role, and the grave losses he sustained. He also wants to remind them that what he has taken so far is very little.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that the most important reason for Husni's one-upmanship is the feeling of smallness and insignificance he feels compared to President Saddam Husayn, around whom all Arab popular forces rally.

Paper Predicts CIA Will Oust Mubarak

*JN1910110391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT
19 Oct 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Oct (INA)—The newspaper BABIL expects Central Intelligence Agency and White House officials to consider ousting President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, just as they did to Anwar al-Sadat.

In an article today, the paper explains that current complications in the region, Washington's need for leaders to take care of its interests without showing themselves to be completely pro-American, and Husni Mubarak's continued disclosure of the details of his surrender to American trends will all force the United States to execute this option within a relatively short period of time.

The paper refers to the Egyptian president's recent statements in which he exceeded even the Americans in his hostility toward Iraq and its President Saddam Husayn. It says: Husni Mubarak's obvious betrayal of the Arab nation's causes, including his striking against Iraq through the Western-Zionist alliance, have forced him to expose and burn all of his cards.

BABIL expresses belief that Husni has reached the same point that led to the replacement of Anwar al-Sadat. It says that Husni Mubarak has realized that there is every need for his replacement in order to peddle the imperialist plans in the region, after he has revealed his ugly face before the progressive national movements and the Arab revolutionaries.

The paper links the political interactions led by the United States in the region with the future of Husni Mubarak, who is no longer trusted by the Palestinian parties, as clarified by the statements their officials and leaders make concerning how they want to see the settlement.

The paper says that the Americans need an alternative to play a basic role in the post-settlement stage, if not in the upcoming settlement since it has come to be quite near.

The paper concentrates on the fact that if power in Egypt is assumed by a person not affiliated to the Americans, and one who advises the parties involved in the conflict to accept the terms of settlement with Israel, these parties will not deal with him with the same sensitivity with which they are dealing with Husni Mubarak, as a result of their awareness of his relations with Israel and his close ties with the Americans.

Anti-U.S. Organization Formed in Baghdad

*JN1910195491 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH
in Arabic 17 Oct 91 pp 1, 2*

[By Amal Salman in Baghdad]

[Text] "The International Grouping for Exposing the U.S. Crimes Against the People of Iraq" has been founded in Baghdad. It comprises a number of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad al-Nuri told an AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondent that the purpose of the group is to unmask the crimes perpetrated by the U.S.-Atlantic aggression against the Iraqi people and to explain the implications of burying Iraqi soldiers alive in their defensive trenches.

Mr. al-Nuri said that the constituent committee is now considering an initial meeting to announce a Baghdad human rights declaration. He added that the committee is made up of Dr. Ahmad Abu-Qurah, president of the Permanent Committee of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Dr. Mawlud Belawan, deputy president of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; Mr. Kintrob [as published], deputy president of the International Human Rights Observers Organization; the head of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society; and Dr. 'Amid Khalid 'Abd-al-Hamid, president of the Arab bureau of the Red Cross Youths.

U.S.-Kuwaiti Force Reportedly 'Infiltrated' Farms
JN2110075491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0716 GMT
21 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Oct (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper has disclosed that a U.S.-Kuwaiti force last Friday [18 Oct] violated Iraqi territory in the southern area of Safwan and shot at farmers.

The paper published a report today saying that the force, which was made up of 10 Kuwaiti soldiers and three U.S. officers, had infiltrated Iraqi farms, fired randomly at farmers and kidnapped several of them.

The administrative officer of the subdistrict of Safwan asserted that this incident was not the first; similar forces had committed repeated violations against citizens in the southern bedouin border areas, Safwan, and Umm Qasr, fired in the air so as to terrorize citizens, and kidnapped 15 citizens.

He also noted that more than 113 citizens have been martyred in Safwan and Umm Qasr recently by the remnants of the 30-state aggression against Iraq and the deployment of its forces in residential neighborhoods, streets, and farms.

It is worth mentioning that these areas are under the observation of the UN forces supervising the cease-fire.

UN Delegate Refutes Nuclear Program Accusations
JN2210102391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT
22 Oct 91

[Text] United Nations, 22 Oct (INA)—Iraq has warned the international community against the consequences of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] becoming a department for scientific and technical espionage.

Iraq explained that IAEA statutes have become a historical document that has nothing to do with the agency's present activities. Iraq also said that the IAEA has contributed to seeking justifications for obstructing the lifting of the economic blockade on the Iraqi people, and that the IAEA is being exploited to attain inhumane political objectives that are not in line with the agency's tasks.

This came in Iraq's speech delivered by 'Adnan Malik Nusayyif during the UN General Assembly deliberations of the annual report submitted by IAEA Director General Hans Blix yesterday afternoon.

The Iraqi representative affirmed that some inspection teams, at the explicit orders of the United States and its allies, have resorted to exaggeration, sowing confusion, and the creation of problems to seek false justifications for continuing to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs and to steal the Iraqi technological data and give it to the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation.

He said that such actions violate the IAEA's obligations to protect the secrecy of its information.

The Iraqi representative added that the IAEA director general did not refer to Israel's refusal to place its nuclear installations under the IAEA's protection system. He said that the United States and its allies also had not raised this point. How then can one believe in the credibility of the IAEA and the United States? He explained that the United States and its allies have supplied Israel with nuclear technology and equipment without the IAEA's knowledge until Israel became the only entity in the region to possess nuclear weapons as U.S. papers recently mentioned.

The Iraqi representative affirmed that Iraq has completely and definitively revealed all aspects of its nuclear program and has provided the inspection teams with all the facilities they need to obtain the pertinent information.

The Iraqi representative said that what is being referred to as Iraq's violation of the agreement on guarantees is purely a technical matter which has been exaggerated, since enrichment operations take place in many laboratories in the world. They are taking place in Japan, Canada, and Australia and the IAEA is not informed about this, and also it is something that it cannot deny.

Arab League Sends Letter on Turkish Raids

JN2210061991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isma't 'Abd-al-Majid has sent a letter to his Excellency Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn in reply to his letter of 16 October 1991 concerning the Turkish Air Force raids on the northern region of Iraq on 12 October.

In his letter the Arab League secretary general said: I was greatly pained by the martyrs who fell in these raids and by the wounding of many Iraqi citizens. He added that he had immediately circulated the foreign minister's letter to member states, affirming that this topic will be one of the major concerns he will raise during his contacts and meetings with the concerned parties.

National Reform Movement Leader Interviewed

PM2110133391 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 18 Oct 91 p 8

[Interview with Shaykh Sami 'Azarah Al al-Ma'jun, leader of the National Reform Movement in Iraq, by Najm 'Abd-al-Karim in London—date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Abd-al-Karim] Why did you announce the establishment of the National Reform Movement in Iraq [harakat al-islah al-watani fi al-'iraq] at this particular time?

[Al al-Ma'jun] The question implies that the movement is the outcome of the present circumstances, but the

truth is totally different. Perhaps the name has changed, but the movement has existed since 1959 under the name "Tribal Bloc." But as a result of the conditions which have deteriorated to an ugly level under the Saddam Husayn regime, and also as a result of the shocks that followed the Gulf war with a view to uproot us, there was a need to bring about a change in our strategy in order to keep pace with the present objective conditions so as to rise up to events. I would like you to scrutinize the name which we have given to the movement. It is the "National Reform Movement in Iraq," specifically "in Iraq," which means that it is an Iraqi movement derived totally from Iraq!! [passage omitted]

[Abd-al-Karim] Do you intend to join the joint action committee in Damascus or any other groupings in other countries?

[Al al-Ma'jun] The National Reform Movement cannot isolate itself from the other opposition groups. It is adopting the line of cooperation with all these Iraqi groups so as to enable them to realize their unity, produce their political leaders, and rid themselves of their common enemy—Saddam Husayn and his regime—and, bearing in mind the nature of the National Reform Movement's structure in terms of its size and influence on the Iraqi opposition scene, to ensure that the basis for our move toward or away from any political group is the positions adopted by that group toward the present regime. The fixed, principled position is toppling the Saddam regime, and we extend a hand of support and cooperation to anyone who works for that.

[Abd-al-Karim] What form will the change expected in Iraq take? Will it be in the form of a military coup or civilian uprising?

[Al al-Ma'jun] All possibilities are on the cards in Iraq at present, and there is a theory which says: Anyone embarking on such action—that is destroying dictatorship in Iraq, regardless of the means—will find the people rallying around the force of change or its leader and supporting him with every available means. [passage omitted]

Thousands From Karbala' Reportedly Tortured

NC1910160091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition
in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] During the past two months, the forces of the defeated tyrant arrested over 7,000 youths in the holy city of Karbala' and its suburbs on charges of participating in the uprising that took place in the city against the tyrant and his bloody regime, according to opposition sources.

The sources said as soon as they were arrested, all the detainees were immediately taken to al-Radwaniyah detention camp, which is located close to the tyrant's palace southwest of Baghdad.

This terrible detention camp is being strongly guarded by the tyrant's security bureau. In the cells of the detention camp the youths are subjected to various forms of physical and psychological torture.

The opposition sources described this detention camp as similar to the al-Ansar detention camp established by the Zionists for the Lebanese resistance movement fighters in south Lebanon. The sources said that a section of the detention camp set up by the tyrant's forces is allocated for those who are believed to be more dangerous to the tyrant's safety.

Hostage Release Moves Viewed; Negotiators Comment**Death of Missing Soldier Confirmed**

TA1910201291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
2000 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Findings transmitted recently about the fate of MIA Yosef Fink show that he is no longer alive. The findings were transmitted as part of the efforts by the UN secretary general to find a solution to the MIA's and POW's. The Israeli Government and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] informed Yosef Fink's family of the announcement.

Israel expressed its appreciation for the secretary general's efforts and hopes his actions will bring about real progress leading to the return of the MIA's, POW's, and the bodies of IDF soldiers to Israel.

Slonim Predicts Prisoner Releases

TA2010054391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Uri Slonim, a member of the Israeli team negotiating the return of Israelis who disappeared in Lebanon, told reporter Alan Ben-Ami that there is now definite momentum in the process and that prisoner releases can be expected on all sides. Slonim said under the initiative of the UN secretary general, discussions are taking place on every aspect of the issue, but he warned that ups and downs can still occur.

'No Intention' To Free Prisoners

NC2010125391 Paris AFP in English 1207 GMT
20 Oct 91

[Text] Jerusalem, Oct 20 (AFP)—Israel has no intention of releasing any Arab prisoners in exchange for conclusive information confirming the death of one of its soldiers in Lebanon, hostage negotiator Uri Lubrani said on Sunday.

Israel will make no "gesture", he said, one day after receiving information that Yosef Fink, who had been listed as missing in Lebanon since 1986, died in captivity.

The Israeli Defense Ministry on Saturday reported the death of Fink, who had been listed missing along with another soldier, Rahamen al-Shaykh, whose death they learned of on September 11.

"The (pro-Iranian Lebanese group) Hizballah had provided us with incomplete information on Yosef Fink and this is why we had to wait for additional information to ascertain his death," Lubrani told Voice of Israel radio.

Also on September 11, Israel returned the bodies of nine Hizballah militants killed in anti-Israeli operations and ordered its proxy militia in Lebanon, the South Lebanon Army, to release 51 Shiite Muslim prisoners.

The Lebanese kidnappers of nine Westerners have said they would release the hostages if Israel agreed to set free some 400 Arab prisoners.

Lubrani's remarks dampened hopes that the information on Fink could speed up the process of release of Arab prisoners by Israel and of Western hostages held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

An Israeli military source on Saturday had expected news on Fink's status to provide new momentum in the Middle East hostages saga.

The Defense Ministry in a statement Saturday said nevertheless that United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar continued to work "for a settlement of the question of soldiers who have been listed as missing or held in Lebanon between 1982 and 1986."

Israel is still awaiting news of four of its servicemen, including one pilot whose plane was shot down over southern Lebanon in 1986.

On September 13, the body of Samir al-Asad, a Druze serving in the Israeli Army who had been captured by a Palestinian group in Lebanon, was returned to Israel.

SLA Frees 14 Shiites From Al-Khiyam

TA2110081791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0800 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] General Antoine Lahd, SLA [South Lebanese Army] commander, released 14 Shiite detainees this morning. Two of those released are women, who served prison terms of one to four years in the al-Khiyam Prison. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the International Red Cross in south Lebanon has not yet received the released detainees. It seems that most of them went back to their villages in the security zone.

Lebanese commentators reported that the release should have taken place yesterday, but it was delayed because of yesterday's deadly attack on the Israeli soldiers.

Source: Release 'Humanitarian Gesture'

TA2110102891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1000 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] This morning at the Rosh Haniqra crossing, Israel handed over to the International Red Cross [IRC] a Hizballah man from Lebanon, 'Ali Abbas Fawwaz, who was imprisoned in Israel. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the IRC took him to Tyre.

Earlier, General Lahd, SLA commander, freed 14 Shiite detainees from the al-Khiyam Prison. Nine of them asked to remain in their villages in the security zone, and the rest were handed over to the IRC and taken to Tyre.

An Israeli source said that all of the people who were released this morning were junior members of terrorist

organizations, and their release is a humanitarian gesture meant to allow the process of releasing POW's and hostages to continue.

Hizballah, IDF Moves in South Lebanon Viewed

No 'Special' UNIFIL Activity Seen

TA1910111691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1100 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Lebanese media are continuing to report on large IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reinforcements in southern Lebanon. Dozens of Israeli armored personnel carriers were brought to the eastern sector of the security zone and positioned themselves opposite the Shiite villages that serve Hizballah, according to the reports.

The UN spokesman has told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that no special military activity has been noticed in the area under UNIFIL's [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] jurisdiction in southern Lebanon.

Arens on Hizballah Attacks, MIA's

TA2010203091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by army affairs correspondent Moshe Schlonsky—live]

[Text] [Schlonsky] Mr. Arens, can this situation in which Hizballah continues to strike at both the IDF and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] without any reaction by the defense establishment continue?

[Arens] We have witnessed increased activity by Hizballah members in recent weeks due to understandable reasons. We will have to take steps to end this violence, which has exacted a heavy toll from the SLA and today also exacted a terrible price from the soldiers of the Golani Brigade.

[Schlonsky] Does the fact that the peace conference is about to convene limit the IDF's operational activity beyond the security zone except for aerial attacks or artillery barrages such as those we are witnessing this evening?

[Arens] No. We will not accept any limitations in this area. We will do everything that must be done to guarantee quiet in the northern part of the country and to guarantee the safety of IDF soldiers.

[Schlonsky] Considering the current situation, what will Israel do if in the course of the peace conference the Lebanese Government demands that Israel be ordered to withdraw from Lebanon?

[Arens] We have responded recently to similar demands and claims. Our reaction will not change. We have achieved quiet on the northern border for the Israeli civilian population after paying a very heavy price—and

we were reminded of that price just today—and we will not let that achievement slip out of our hands.

[Schlonsky] Is that the position Israel will take on the Lebanese issue at the peace conference?

[Arens] That is our position regarding this specific issue. If Lebanon indeed sits down to the negotiating table, there are certainly many issues that can and should be discussed in order to sign a peace agreement between Israel and Lebanon.

[Schlonsky] Mr. Arens, yesterday it was officially reported that soldier Yosef Fink is also dead. Do we know when the bodies of Rahamim Alshekh and Yosef Fink will arrive in Israel?

[Arens] At this stage we have no idea. No contacts have been held yet regarding the return of the bodies. I imagine that the time will come.

[Schlonsky] Is there any new information regarding the MIA's from al-Sultan Ya'aqub and navigator Ron Arad?

[Arens] To my great regret I cannot report any news on this issue. Activity on this matter is continuing, especially as a result of the UN secretary general's initiative and the efforts of the people working with him. We hope we shall know more in the future.

[Schlonsky] Thank you, Minister Arens.

Arens on Nuclear 'Reality' in Region

TA2210142391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1400 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that the Hizballah is operating in southern Lebanon with complete freedom of action. The Lebanese Army avoids confrontation with Hizballah, apparently as a result of Syrian directives.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that Minister Arens, appearing before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, added that the Middle East was heading toward the era of nuclear weapons and that Israel would have to live in and prepare itself for such a reality. Meanwhile, the conventional arms race continues unabated.

Arens pointed out that although the U.S. Administration was determined to act against Iraq, the danger posed by the technology Iraq had developed has not been removed, because this technology could be transferred to other countries such as Libya.

IDF Commander on Hizballah Activities

TA2010182891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1800 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Report by military correspondent Alan Ben-Ami]

[Excerpts] Three Israeli soldiers from the Golani Brigade have been killed when an explosive charge went off near

their vehicle in southern Lebanon, two others were wounded. [passage omitted]

The head of Northern Command, Major General Yitzhak Mordekhay, said tonight that Hizballah was operating from villages just north of the security zone and he issued a stern warning to the villagers themselves saying they should stop aiding Hizballah and expel the gunmen or face strong consequences. We shall not be prepared to deal every day with bombs and attacks inside the security zone while the villagers from where the attackers come enjoy a quiet life, said Gen. Mordekhay. And tonight UN soldiers in South Lebanon reported IDF gunners bombarding the area around Maydun village, a major operating base for Hizballah.

Hizballah Operating 'Freely'

TA2110060291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0500 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Thousand of Shiite villagers left their villages north of the security zone last night and are fleeing north out of fear of an IDF reaction to yesterday's incident in which three soldiers were killed. UN Headquarters in south Lebanon told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that SLA and IDF artillery fired dozens of rounds at Shiite villages in the al-Nabatiyah area. [passage omitted]

Israeli sources have said that in contradiction with the declared policy of the Lebanese Army, it is not operating against armed Hizballah men and even allows them to operate freely in Lebanon and the south. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that according to the sources, over the past seven months, since the Lebanese Army completed its deployment in south Lebanon, hundreds of Hizballah terrorists have returned to the villages and posts they abandoned four years earlier in the wake of clashes with the Amal organization.

11 Villages in al-Nabatiyah Area Closed

TA2110112891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1100 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] The South Lebanese Army has imposed a closure on 11 Shiite villages in the al-Nabatiyah area. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in a broadcast on the Voice of the South radio station, General Lahd announced that anyone who leaves the bounds of these villages on foot or by car will be shot without warning. The closure is for an indefinite period of time.

Commentator on Hizballah Attacks

JN2110204591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic
1435 GMT 21 Oct 91

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: There is an unchanging basic fact, which governs the neighborly relations between any two

states. This unchanging fact provides that it is in the interest of the citizens of any two neighboring states that tranquillity, stability, and peacefulness prevail on both sides of the borders. It is unreasonable and unrealistic that citizens on one side of the border enjoy stability and peace at a time when terrorist operations are carried out from or through their side against the other. This basic unchanging fact is well known by everyone in Lebanon; officials and average citizens alike. This fact is also well known by everyone, far and near.

Why, then, do the Hizballah militias persist in their terrorist act against Israel? This criminal terrorist persistence has one or more interpretations. The first is that the Lebanese Army, although fully supported by the Syrian forces in Lebanon, is unable to control the Hizballah militias and their hotbeds in southern Lebanon. It is known that only Hizballah militias refused to hand over their weapons. So far, the Lebanese Army has chosen not to confront them to disarm them.

The second interpretation is that the Lebanese Army, instructed by the Damascus rulers, turns a blind eye to the activities of Hizballah militias in southern Lebanon and its terrorist aggressions against Israel and against the security zone. This, among other things, means that the Damascus rulers are eager to avoid a confrontation with the Tehran rulers, who issue orders to Hizballah and its militias.

The third possible interpretation could mean that there is an understanding, or a deal, between the Damascus and Tehran rulers.

In any case, the tragic fact that must be concluded is that the leaders and godfathers of Hizballah militias, and those colluding with them, do not at all care about the woes and grave consequences that might afflict the population of the villages bordering the security zone as a result of these militias' terrorist crimes against Israel originating in or passing through these villages. Moreover, the leaders and godfathers of Hizballah militias, and even the officials in Beirut, consider the population of these Lebanese villages their cheapest possessions.

Finally, it perhaps goes without saying that it is the mistaken person who believes or acts according to the belief that the regional peace conference scheduled to be held in Madrid on 30 October may prompt Israel to turn a blind eye to any terrorist aggression against it irrespective of the form of this aggression, be it a mine or a remote-control explosive charge attack. If the Hizballah godfathers are working through their pawns in Lebanon to disrupt the peace process, the coming days will prove not only their destructive negativism, but will also prove the futility of their attempts and sickness of their mentalities.

Lebanese Demands on Overflights To Be Rejected

TA2010100991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0700 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] At the very outset of the talks with Israel, the Lebanese delegation to the Madrid conference will demand that Israel discontinue its Air Force overflights of Lebanon and its Navy patrols in Lebanese territorial waters. A statement to this effect was made by cabinet ministers to media representatives in Beirut.

An Israeli source has told our correspondent that in Israel's view those demands constitute preconditions that will be categorically rejected.

UN Reports Israeli Overflights

TA2210052991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Israel Air Force planes and helicopters flew over south Lebanon overnight. UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] officials told Qol Yisra'el correspondent Hayim Hecht that flares were dropped along the coast and in the area of al-Nabatiyah.

The South Lebanese Army has closed off 11 villages in the al-Nabatiyah region and is firing at anyone trying to leave the area. The Voice of Lebanon radio station has warned residents of the security zone not to leave their homes at night for fear of terrorist attacks.

Explosion 'Slightly' Injures IDF Soldier 22 Oct

TA2210113791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Excerpt] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly injured this morning when an explosive charge went off near an IDF contingent on the move in the security zone in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports.

The soldier sustained very light injuries and received medical attention at the scene of the explosion, near the village of al-Tayyibah. The Hizballah organization reported that two explosive charges went off near IDF patrols. It was further reported that Israel Air Force planes continued their flights over Lebanon today. [passage omitted]

Suspected 'Terrorist' Injured in Jerusalem Blast

TA2110061891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0600 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] It has just been reported that a bomb went off in Jerusalem's French Hill neighborhood. An Arab, who was probably the terrorist who planted the bomb, was seriously injured. There were no other casualties and no damage was caused.

'Terrorist' Dies of Wounds

TA2110074991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0730 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Here is an update from Jerusalem: The terrorist who was seriously injured this morning while attempting to plant an explosive charge in Jerusalem's French Hill neighborhood died of his wounds at Hadassah-En Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem.

West Bankers Banned From Jerusalem Until Sabbath

TA1810161691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The ban on the entry of Arabs from the territories into Jerusalem was extended until the end of the Sabbath. This was decided in a meeting at the police commissioner's office. The special deployment of police forces will continue. [passage omitted]

IDF Expecting More Resistance, Settler Problems

TA2010103791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
20 Oct 91 p A5

[By military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and security forces believe that terrorism will increase with the approach of the peace conference. The increase is expected mainly in the territories, and will be carried out by the Islamic Jihad, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Those organizations wish to torpedo the political process.

In view of the dispute over East Jerusalem, it is believed that attempts will be made to carry out spectacular acts of terrorism there.

The police and IDF will beef up their forces, mainly in East Jerusalem. Security sources noted that when the peace accord with Egypt was signed at Camp David, Palestinian elements tried to carry out terrorist acts in the territories.

Last week the security forces detained several dozen Hamas activists to foil hostile terrorist activity. Wanted persons were also detained in the West Bank for the same reason.

Minor incidents were noted in the territories over the weekend. Three residents were injured in the Gaza Strip: one in Jabalyah and two in Gaza City. Only stone-throwing incidents were noted in the West Bank. Security forces detained four masked men in Silwan. Official security sources reported that no irregular events were reported in the territories, no one was injured, and no curfews were imposed.

The defense establishment expects also that Jewish extremist groups, mainly the right-wing parties, will hold demonstrations and will try to establish settlements to create faits accomplis.

The right-wing parties and the Judea, Samaria, and Gaza Council are discussing the political process, but no significant decisions have been made so far. Uri Ari'el, the council head, said that "settlements are also on the agenda."

Police Prepare for Attacks, Rallies

TA2110170591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] The police have begun preparing for possible terrorist attacks before and during the peace conference in Madrid. Senior police personnel held a special meeting today. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was decided to beef up police deployment throughout the country in the coming days, to set up an extensive network of police barricades, and to carry out random checks and searches of suspected persons. Police will also step up intelligence operations.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the police are also prepared to deal with demonstrations, rallies, and other protest activities in the coming days, for and against the political moves. Police Commissioner Ya'akov Terner instructed police commanders to allow protest activities and demonstrations as far as possible, at the same time observing strict security measures.

Palestinian Delegates to Peace Conference Named

'Authoritative' List Published

TA2110115991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 21 Oct 91 pp 1, 13

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Palestinian Hebrew-language magazine GESHER published the list of the Palestinian delegation members today. Its editor, attorney Ziyad abu-Zayyad, one of the prominent figures in the territories, yesterday said this is the authoritative list. Included on it are:

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi—the delegation head, from the Gaza Strip; Dr. Ahmad al-Yazchi from the Gaza Strip; Dr. Zakariya al-Agha from the Gaza Strip; Attorney Furayh Abu-Mudayn from the Gaza Strip; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamid from Bayt Hanun in the Gaza Strip; Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj; former Hebron Mayor Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, since deposed; Dr. Nabil al-Ja'bari from Hebron; Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat from Abu-Dix; Dr. Nabil Qassis from Ramallah; Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib from Ramallah; Samih Kan'an from Nablus; Dr. Mamduh al-Akr from Nablus; and Dr. Sami al-Kaylani from Nablus.

The advisory committee to the delegation will include six personages: Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Dr. Sari Nusaybah from East Jerusalem; and Dr. Rashid al-Khalidi, Kamil Mansur, and Anis al-Qasim—Palestinians who live in Europe and the United States. [passage omitted]

Advisory Group Will Wear 'Official' Tags

TA2110114191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1100 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] The Americans are to hand out invitations to all 20 Palestinian representatives appearing on the two lists for the peace talks currently held by Faysal al-Husayni. One list is composed of 14 negotiators, the other of six representatives who are to form an advisory council for the Palestinians in Madrid.

One of the delegation members told Qol Yisra'el's Moti Amir that the advisory council's representatives will wear official conference tags. He also said that the Palestinians had given the Americans a detailed paper on a number of measures aimed at building confidence between Israel and the Palestinians. Among the Palestinian demands: the release of detainees, cancellation of military censorship, freedom of political activity, and an end to the restrictions preventing residents of the territories from entering Jerusalem.

As far as the intifadah is concerned, the source said that Secretary Baker, in his last conversation with the Palestinians, demanded that they halt the uprising. They refused, saying that it would be stopped only when the conference produced positive results.

Delegates Warned Against Attendance

TA2210115091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1100 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Report by Ya'akov Rosenberg]

[Text] Two of the leading opponents to Palestinian participation in the Middle East parley issued their clearest warning to Palestinian delegates not to attend the Madrid conference. Dr. Riyad al-Maliki and 'Ali Abu-Hilal, both of whom are supporters of the Democratic Front, said they will turn the lives of those delegates into a nightmare. Dr. al-Maliki, a professor at Bi'r Zayt University, said the opposition would use all methods, in his words, not necessarily violent, to stop the Palestinians from attending the meeting. Later, he amended his warning.

[Begin al-Maliki recording] We will go far enough to stop the conference and to bring our representatives back to the occupied territories. Nobody spoke about violence, and I refuse even to speak about such a word. [end recording]

The opposition said the PLO did not have the mandate from the Palestine National Council to attend the conference, and certainly not under the current terms, which

include no independent Palestinian delegation, no representation from East Jerusalem, and no pledge for Palestinian self-determination. Just meters away from the news conference was Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, named as the leader of the Palestinian delegation. He did not seem surprised by the threats.

[Begin 'Abd-al-Shafi recording] I do not like to comment on this, but if they say that our position is illegitimate, they should have the task of proving this rather than saying this; that would be better than threatening anybody. [end recording]

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi was not enthusiastic about the conference, but the difference between him and his opponents was that he said he was willing to gamble on the peace conference, a chance his critics said they would not dare to attempt.

Opposition Clarifies Attendance Threats

TA2210134891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1330 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Dr. Riyad al-Maliki and 'Ali Abu-Hilal, who belong respectively to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, met with Faysal al-Husayni a short while ago to explain their statement from this morning. According to the statement, they will exert pressure on the Palestinian representatives and turn their lives into a nightmare.

Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports that the two men told al-Husayni that their remarks did not mean to imply a physical threat to the lives of the delegates or their families, but referred to verbal pressure and demonstrations.

Leaflet Urges Strike To Oppose Conference

TA2110183491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1705 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Report by correspondent in territories Moti Amir]

[Text] A special leaflet was distributed this afternoon, charging that the Madrid conference is a U.S. plot to bring the Palestinian people to their knees, and that the true meaning of autonomy would be exchanging Israeli sovereignty for symbolic Jordanian rule with a continued Israeli military presence in the territories.

The leaflet called for a strike in the territories to protest the Madrid conference on Wednesday, when Faysal al-Husayni will present the final lists of the Palestinian representatives to the U.S. and Soviet consuls.

The Communist Party in the territories remains undecided about whether to participate in Faysal al-Husayni's delegation. Returning from Jordan, Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib said today that the party may decide by tomorrow not to attend the Madrid conference, but to join those opposing it. The question is whether this

represents a complete crumbling of the coalition composed of the Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Communists, who together make up the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah in the territories, or whether this split is only over the issue of the peace conference.

Meanwhile, the pressure on Faysal al-Husayni to change the lists of names given to the Americans continues. There were expressions of bitterness in the refugee camps today over the fact that the refugees, which are the heart of the Palestinian problem, did not receive adequate representation in the delegation. Apparently, as a result of the pressures applied by the refugee, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash will be included in the list of Palestinian representatives—much to the displeasure of Faysal al-Husayni. Abu-'Ayyash, who was born in the old 'Askar refugee camp near Nabulus, now resides in Ramallah; however, the majority of his supporters come from among the Fatah activists in the refugee camps in the territories.

Leaders of Talks Delegation Still Not Confirmed

TA2110092891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0900 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Uri Oren, Foreign Minister David Levi's adviser, said this morning that there are no fights over prestige between personnel from Levi's and Shamir's offices. Speaking to our correspondent Razi Barqay, Oren said that it has not been determined that Yosef Ben-Aharon and Elyaqim Rubinstein will head the delegations to the bilateral talks. It also is not yet clear whether the prime minister will go to the opening of the conference in Madrid.

Referring to Minister Ari'el Sharon's positions, Levi's aide said that he is challenging the government and the Likud policy. According to him, Sharon is offering negotiations with preconditions, which is unacceptable to all the Likud members.

Commentary Views Cabinet Agreement to Conference

TA2010130991 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
20 Oct 91 p 1

[Commentary by Hemi Shalev: "Shamir Leans on Levi"]

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi is the only cabinet minister who is really pleased with the exciting political developments of the last 48 hours. Levi is rejoicing in the peace conference. He also predicted with surprising precision Israel's limited power in obtaining assurances from the United States and the concessions Israel would have to make.

The U.S. offer to convene a peace conference would be defeated by a devastating majority if the ministers could vote according to their hearts. Ari'el Sharon and the right-wing ministers are not the only ones opposing it;

even the so-called moderate Likud branch believes that Israel is entering a dead-end trap. Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Ministers Dan Meridor and Ehud Olmert—Shamir's political backbone in the government—believe that Shamir made an initial mistake when he allowed the United States to intervene so bluntly and design a comprehensive process with the Arabs. Had the suggestion presented to the cabinet today been presented by the Labor Party, the Likud ministers would have torn it to pieces.

In this respect Shamir finds himself in a strange alliance with Levi, for whom he has very little respect. Shamir had to agree to go to the conference because he is prime minister and everyone follows him. He decided to go to the conference, no matter the cost, after Israel was defeated in the confrontation with Bush on the guarantees issue. Shamir knows full well that an Israeli refusal to go to the conference will completely destroy relations with the United States. The only way to reorganize the defeated troops on Capitol Hill and among the Jewish leadership is through going to the conference and trying to expose "the Arabs' true nature" there.

The government accepts the conference with a clear feeling that nothing will come out of this whole business. For many of its members this feeling is also their hope. There are indeed many obstacles: The Palestinians could still foil their own participation in the Madrid conference by presenting a totally unacceptable delegation. It could still become apparent, in the opening conference itself, that Syria has no intention of making any progress beyond its raising ultimatums that settlements be frozen and the principle of "territories for peace" be accepted. The parties may not even agree on the modalities of the bilateral talks. In any event, there is no longer any doubt that the Arab countries would not move an inch before being promised that Israel is willing to withdraw, at least a kilometer.

Most of the ministers believe that no matter where the process stops, Israel would be blamed for the failure, and its fate would be handed over to the UN Security Council. Now, they adopted the logic that led Shamir to topple the government in March 1990: Better not start a process the end of which is known in advance. [sentence as published]

Israel is therefore entering a political process despite itself and, as Levi rightfully put it, "in a gloomy atmosphere." President Bush and Secretary Baker, who worked so hard to bring the parties to water, will now have to work hard to prove to the Israeli public that it should also drink. Only that effort will determine whether the coming conference will be a peace conference or, God forbid, a war conference, as Minister Ari'el Sharon called it yesterday.

Shamir Tells Aide To Prepare for Autonomy Talks

TA1810082191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
18 Oct 91 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Following recent consultations with Defense Minister Moshe Arens, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir recently instructed Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, to prepare working papers for the autonomy talks. This was reported by reliable sources.

Staff members at the coordinator's office have recently begun drawing up working papers in anticipation of the autonomy talks. As part of this, the position papers drafted during the time of the late Maj. Gen. Avraham Orli, coordinator of government activities in the territories after the signing of the Camp David accords, have been updated.

The work is focusing on the issue of the powers and responsibilities Israel will offer the Palestinian self-rule body, in accordance with the general formulation included in the Camp David agreements.

Defense Ministry sources have reported that the office of the coordinator of government activities in the territories will be most active in the part of the peace process that will deal with autonomy. Gen. Rothschild and his advisers will soon provide assessments on the state of the political process.

Settlements Policy, Strategies for Talks Viewed

Civilian Status of Qela' Hailed

TA2010123891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1100 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] The civilianization ceremony of the Golan Heights settlement of Qela' will be held on 29 October—one day prior to the peace conference in Madrid. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht has learned that the Prime Minister's Office has been putting heavy pressure on the Golan settlers to postpone the ceremony on the grounds that the United States is liable to view the step as provocation. The Golan officials, however, insist on holding the ceremony as scheduled, asserting that the settlement had been approved by the cabinet.

Ceremony Delayed Due to 'Sensitivity'

TA2010212491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
2100 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] The council of Golan settlers decided to postpone the civilianization of the Qela' settlement until 4 November, after the convention of the peace conference in Madrid. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the settlers thus acquiesced to the request issued by the Prime Minister's Office to postpone the ceremony that was originally scheduled for 29 October, one day before the conference was due to start.

Yehuda Wolman, the head of the Golan Regional Council told our correspondent that the settlers accepted the Prime Minister's Office's clarification regarding the United States' sensitivity to the issue.

Settlers Plan 'Propaganda Campaign'

TA2110125391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1200 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] A delegation on behalf of the settlers of Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will go to Madrid to conduct a propaganda campaign which will stress what they term the dangers to Israel entailed in the continuation of the peace conference.

Uri Ari'el, secretary general of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza, told our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld that he believes that there is a good chance that the conference discussions will come to a dead end. If this happens, the Israeli Government must be pressured to leave Madrid at once and not seek compromise formulas.

Golan Group Plans 'Extreme Steps'

TA2210121391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1100 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Groups of Golan Heights residents, including public leaders and rabbis, convened last night in Hispin on the Golan Heights and decided to take what they term extreme steps to preclude any territorial compromises regarding the Golan Heights. The assembled settlers claim that the methods adopted by the Golan Heights Settlement Council are too conformist. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports from the north:

The group of residents which assembled last night in Hispin ruled that the Golan Heights Settlement Council, the body officially in charge of negotiations with the government, is too moderate. The settlers asserted that it is time to stop stressing only the security importance of the Golan Heights and the fact that Israel's water resources are situated in this region. Water sources and security can be bought with assurances and guarantees, the Americans will say. We must explain to the world that we are fighting for our homes. This statement was made by Rabbi Yehoshu'a Herscovitz, the rabbi of the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

The settlers demanded that the NRP [National Religious Party] resign from the government if the prime minister fails to uphold his commitments regarding Israel's red lines at the Madrid conference. Sha'ul Yahalom, the NRP political secretary, responded by saying that the NRP will resign from the government if it decides to make any territorial compromise on the Golan Heights.

'Building Offensive' Planned

TA2110115091 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
21 Oct 91 p 6

[Report by Hana Qim]

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon decided to launch a huge building offensive on the Golan Heights in the next month, when the peace conference is held. This is in an effort to increase its population by approximately 50 percent.

Internal Construction and Housing Ministry documents indicate the intention is to set up four new settlements and build 1,500 new housing units already next month. The new settlements are planned near Ramot and Mevo Hama, in the Qatzrin area, and in the northern part of the Golan Heights. The final date for their establishment will be determined by the construction and housing minister. The documents also show that work has already begun on the building of 580 new housing units in Qatzrin and that two other areas have been flattened to prepare for another 500 units.

According to the documents, the Golan Heights kibbutzim will be boosted by 200 new housing units and the moshavim by 475 units, half of which are already in the building stage. Work on the other half will begin soon.

In Kibbutz Merom Golan, for example, work on the building of 50 housing units will begin in the next month; in Kibbutz Ortal—30 units; and in Gshur—20. Moshav Giv'at Yo'av will get another 50 housing units in a month, as will Moshav Ne'ot Hagolan and Moshav Ramot.

The urban centers will also enjoy such a boom. In Bnei Yehuda, for example, 150 new housing units are already under construction; 150 units are planned for Hispin, and 30 are in the building stages.

Likud Endorses Settlement Bill

TA2110123191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1100 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] The Likud Executive has endorsed a bill that would prevent evacuation of Jewish settlements as a result of the peace negotiations. The move came amidst growing calls for a full Knesset debate on the peace talks. Over to David Ze'ev at the Knesset:

[Ze'ev] The bill approved this morning by the Likud Executive in the Knesset was put forward by Knesset Member [MK] Hayim Corfu. The bill states that any settlement established as a result of a decision by the government, the World Zionist Organization, or the Jewish Agency will not be evacuated against the will of those living there. The legislation also rules out any negotiations on evacuating a settlement or such evacuation as a condition. Elements of the bill could be overturned only with the approval of 80 of the 120 MK's.

Also at this morning's Likud meeting, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, said Israel must insist that the United States not take part in negotiations with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Ben-Elisar said the United States is not a fair mediator and, if the Arabs want peace, they do not need a mediator anyway.

The left-wing bloc at the Knesset has called for a debate on Israel's decision to go to the peace conference. MAPAM [United Workers Party], Shinuy, and the Citizens Rights Movement say it is unthinkable that the Knesset not relate and give its support to the process.

Nisim—No Halt in Settlements

TA2110195791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1605 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Interview with Moshe Nisim, deputy prime minister and industry and trade minister, by Roni Daniyel, on the "Six After Six" current affairs magazine—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Daniyel] You said, sir, that we can trust the government to lead us wisely, and yet it has been criticized both by Israelis and American Jews over our relations with the United States. The United States has withheld several things from us, such as loan guarantees and defense-related information. Do you think the government's approach was appropriate?

[Nisim] As God is my witness, I cannot understand why the United States is so critical of us. [passage omitted] Last July, we responded affirmatively to the U.S. proposals to attend the peace conference and the peace negotiations. What did we do wrong? We were merely respecting the U.S. wishes. Some people say we overdid that. It is true that, during the Gulf war, we knowingly surrendered our right to use our deterrent force, which is tremendously important for us.

There is a controversy between us and the present U.S. Administration over settlements. They are against settlement, while we assert it as our right. This issue is part of the political situation, and there will be time to discuss it when we conduct political negotiations. Any Israeli consent to freeze the settlement activities will mean an a priori Israeli consent to waive its right to the territories and an admission that it has no right to demand any part of the territories, and so forth. We always have rejected this, and I hope that we will never agree to such a move. Even in the upcoming process, there will be no Israeli consent to stop the settlement activities.

I wish to point out, however, that the act of settling should be done in a natural and appropriate manner, quietly, as we would go about any other issue. I am against creating histrionics around the settlements, and I reject using settlements to create provocation. I find that mode of action unsavory. I have criticized firmly and unhesitatingly the actions in the City of David, or Silwan. In my opinion, people responsible for that event have hurt the status of Jerusalem as the united capital of

Israel. Not only is this kind of action unsavory, but it also is wrong and detrimental. [passage omitted]

Opposition Leaders on National Unity Government

Peres on Unity Government With Likud

TA2110115391 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
21 Oct 91 p 3

[Report by Sarit Rom]

[Excerpt] The Labor Party chairman reacted yesterday to the Tehiya decision and said that "even without the Tehiya, the government enjoys a majority. As we said, we will support the peace process in the Knesset, even if we are not part of the coalition." Asked whether Tehiya's withdrawal could result in elections, he replied: "I can see that so far the government has a majority."

In closed meetings with his associates, Peres has recently said that he does not rule out the option of establishing a unity government with the Likud, but only if that government is egalitarian and is based on parity.

Peres returned from the USSR last night. The Labor Party estimated last night that the Tehiya's withdrawal from the government will set the date for elections to the next Knesset at April-May 1992. [passage omitted]

Rabin Opposes National Unity

TA2110120891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
1100 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Rabin says he is more than doubtful about the Shamir government's ability to make progress in peace negotiations. At the same time, Rabin reiterated the Labor Party's commitment to back the government in a vote of no confidence as long as it sticks to the peace process. Rabin this morning addressed the UJA's [United Jewish Appeal] president's mission in Jerusalem, and afterwards he spoke to correspondent Miriam Herschlag:

[Begin recording] [Herschlag] No matter what happens, Yitzhaq Rabin predicts the peace process will be long and arduous. The Labor MK told American Jewish supporters of Israel that the country would need to stay strong militarily as long as peace was only a negotiated agreement and not a proven reality. Afterwards, we asked what he thought the chances were that this government could reach a peace agreement:

[Rabin] Bearing in mind the composition of the present government, I am more than doubtful about their capability to move ahead with the peace process. I hope that I am wrong.

[Herschlag] Despite his doubts about the capability of this administration to move forward, Rabin says now is not the time for a national unity government, but rather a time to support the decision to sit down at the negotiating table.

[Rabin] I believe that two of the three right-wing parties will remain in the government to go to the conference. In any case, the Labor Party will not allow any vote of no confidence till the peace conference is convened; then we will judge the government in accordance to the positions that they will take in the peace conference.

[Herschlag] What would be a red line for dropping support in the no confidence?

[Rabin] I will not draw red lines at this moment. Today we say: We support your decision to go to the peace conference. Go and try your best to bring about peace.

[Herschlag] On other matters, Yitzhaq Rabin publicly condemned the move by right-wing MK's and settlers into the Silwan houses, and he reacted this way to reports on a new book published in the United States, which claims that Israel's nuclear arsenal is much greater than once thought:

[Rabin] I have never heard such lies as what was mentioned or written in the Israeli papers. It is unbelievable how somebody can write such a book. [end recording]

Rabin Remarks on Peace

TA2010104791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0600 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Beni Begin supports the prime minister's proposal to join the peace conference, although he has reservations about Mr. Shamir's consent to resolve the debate with the United States without first presenting the names of each Palestinian representative for the cabinet's approval. In an interview with Qol Yisra'el this morning, MK Begin stressed that he does not expect much from the conference, partly because the invitations to Madrid do not state that the conference is designed to reach a peace accord.

MK Yitzhaq Rabin believes that no Labor Party member is happy that the Likud is leading Israel to the peace conference. He stressed, however, that his party will do everything to enable Shamir to reach the conference. After the conference has begun, the Labor Party will examine the government's stands and make its own reaction known.

Value of Unity Government Viewed

TA2110145591 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew
21 Oct 91 p 3

[Commentary by Amnon Levi: "Shamir Wanted a Shaky Government and 'Eased' Tehiya 'Out'"]

[Text] In addition to all the big questions, the ministers were bothered yesterday by a seemingly trivial matter: What unearthly power made Yitzhaq Shamir give up his sacrosanct afternoon nap to drag the cabinet session on until 1600? What happened? After all, it had been

reported long before that the decision would be made on Wednesday. So why was the prime minister in such a hurry?

The answer the ministers came up with is as follows: Shamir, who had until yesterday made every effort to prevent the right-wing movements from quitting the government, has done an about-face. He wanted the cabinet to endorse the conference so that Tehiya, whose Central Committee met immediately afterwards, could decide to pull out of the coalition forthwith.

Why did Shamir push for such a shaky government? The reply to this given in the government compound was: Shamir is interested in going to Madrid, participating in the ceremony, and doing his duty by the United States, only to pull out of it when they get down to the nitty gritty. The government will not exactly bolt, but will collapse in front of the rather disappointed eyes of the United States and the other participants.

According to this thesis, Tehiya's withdrawal should have signaled to the United States that if it makes tough demands of Israel during the conference, this narrow-based government, which enjoys only a tiny margin, will be lost at once. Moledet will secede, Tzomet may follow suit, Moda'i will evaporate—in short, something will happen. The message is: Go easy on us in Madrid; it would not be a good idea to pressure us, because we will disintegrate.

There are two underlying hypotheses behind this concept: First, that a unity government stands no chance. A round of telephone calls to the religious parties verified that they do not believe in a unity government now. The NRP [National Religious Party] said that as of yesterday no appeal on the matter had arrived, but that the issue did not appear to be ripe. People in SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] were even more blunt: "The prospect is totally unrealistic," said Minister Arye Der'i.

The second hypothesis is that an alternative government stands no chance of winning Knesset approval. The ultra-Orthodox confirmed yesterday that that is indeed the case. Even SHAS, beleaguered by so many police investigations, was not enthusiastic. Ya'ir Levi said that right now he prefers to remain silent, whereas Arye Der'i said that the prime minister can rest assured that SHAS will not spring a surprise on him.

The NRP is also not a threat. Although it created its own little drama yesterday when its ministers convened their party bureau during the cabinet session and Hanan Porat walked in the halls of the government compound as though he owned the place, the party nevertheless decided to support the conference. Furthermore, that resolution was worded by Porat himself. During the bureau meeting only Political Secretary Sha'ul Yahalom spoke against the conference. Former Minister Yosef Shapira shouted at him, saying that the NRP need not put on shows like Tehiya; and Knesset Member Rabbi Yitzhaq Levi—a confirmed hawk—also did not oppose the conference.

Porat formulated six demands for the NRP—everything well known, nothing new.

So what is left? Shamir's message is evidently this: The Likud heads a government up until the conference, but it will dissolve one minute after the Arabs raise new demands. But then maybe—who knows?—the message itself will be enough for the Americans, and there will be no real need to clash and break the coalition. In short, our strength lies in our weakness.

Israeli Arab Involvement in Peace Process Urged

TA2010133791 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR
in Hebrew 20 Oct 91 p 9

[Commentary by Avner Regev: "An Opportunity That Must Not Be Missed"]

[Text] The upcoming peace conference arouses among Israeli Arabs the strong feeling that the bells of history are chiming. For the first time ever, discussions over the future of the region are being conducted with the Palestinians' participation. Knesset Members [MK's] Darawshah, Mi'ari, and Hashim Mahamid have recently been spending much time in discussions in Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and in particular in East Jerusalem, with the aim of updating them and hoping to be able to push the Palestinian elite into taking part in the process.

The Israeli Arabs see themselves as part of the Palestinian people and therefore also feel that they are part of the process the inhabitants of the territories, the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], are undergoing. The Arab MK's, including those belonging to the Zionist parties, are urging the Palestinians with whom they are meeting to take part in the political moves. They are therefore urging the establishment of an advisory council with which the Palestinian representatives in the joint delegation with Jordan will consult.

The council will be composed of delegates from the territories, East Jerusalem, and the diaspora, and all the streams can be represented there although Israel refuses to accept it as a partner to the political process. Such a setup would thereby satisfy those who oppose participation in political talks. The council's discussions will become recommendations to be presented to the PLO leaders located in Tunis.

'Arafat is viewed by many Arab public figures as managing to lead the Palestinians onto the right track, as having the ability to maneuver extremists like Habash and Hawatimah, and to push Hamas out of the picture. 'Arafat's moves are acceptable to them; therefore, he has a great deal of support among the Arab population in Israel. Arab public figures in Israel also advise the Palestinians in the territories on the way the negotiations should be conducted. Some of them, for example, helped to get the PLO institutions to accept the idea that they should agree to discuss "the interim stage," thereby avoiding the term "autonomy," which they do not especially favor. The term "interim stage" also has an

East Jerusalem connotation since it permits them to claim that self-rule will be discussed at this stage and that in the next stage it will be possible to expand the discussions to include also other subjects. In such a way, the Palestinians will be pleasing the territories' and East Jerusalem residents as well as Israel and the United States.

At this stage there is no need to forecast the final outcome or demand that the United States commit itself to the final wording or to take certain steps unacceptable to Israel.

Arab activists in Israel bring to the meetings with the Palestinians the tone of the negotiations with Israel and help them to understand the moves taken by the government and the MK's. This involvement by Israeli Arabs also influences their internal politics. The Islamic Movement decided that it does not intend to participate in the upcoming Knesset elections. The movement is adopting a similar approach to that taken by Hamas in the territories, which totally rejects Palestinian participation in the peace conference. MK's Mi'ari and Darawshah view themselves as trying to adopt pragmatic moves while the Islamic Movement is impeding any political development which might influence the future political map in Israel.

Further evidence of the positions taken by the Israeli Arabs, who are influenced by their interaction with the inhabitants of the territories and the Palestinians in the diaspora, can be found in the decisions taken in the Labor Party's Arab affairs committee, which will be transmitted for ratification to the general conference convening in November. The committee says that the right of the Palestinians to an independent state in the territories should be recognized. It can thereby be understood that there is support for the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people, a position diametrically opposed to the declared stand of the party leaders. It will be interesting to see how the delegations to the conference respond when they are faced with these proposals, whether they will reject them out of hand or there is a sharp debate.

The idea of setting up an Arab stronghold in the Labor Party is developing. Such a stronghold will be able to conduct discussions and make decisions which will commit its delegates to act in accordance with the party's institutions. An Arab stronghold, which accepts the resolutions to be adopted in the conference on Arab affairs, might bring about a dramatic change in the party and among leftist Zionist voters. There will no longer be calls by this or that activist, but a decision by a stronghold. Under the internal political rules of the game it might make demands to support a certain candidate, whether Jewish or Arab, in elections to the Knesset or to other public institutions, such as heads of local councils, etc.

An Arab stronghold will also send delegates to the Knesset and it is reasonable to assume that their positions will be the same as the positions presented by members of the stronghold, who are not bound by the party's official line. Many of the Arab activists in the Zionist parties see it as an opening for activity despite the differences of opinion with the heads of the biggest opposition party.

Articles published over the past two weeks in 'AL HAMISHMAR said that Israeli Arabs will have a lot of influence over the outcome of the upcoming elections either through their direct votes or indirectly. It can be assumed that the behavior of the parties of the center and the moderate left during the discussions on the political process will influence the political behavior of the Israeli Arabs. The strong ties between Arab figures and residents of the territories and the reciprocal relations expressed in recent months, especially since the

beginning of Baker's shuttles to the region, will also influence the anticipated vote.

The Israeli Arab leadership feels itself being courted both by the center and leftist parties and by Palestinians who want their advice about Israel's moves. The possibility of acting as a bridge to peace is now within reach and this is the opportunity which must not be missed. We might witness in the future surprising developments among Israeli Arabs which change the very unpleasant atmosphere now existing between Jews and Arabs in Israel.

Levin Named Ambassador to Soviet Union

TA2210053891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Arye Levin has been officially named Israel's ambassador to the Soviet Union. He is the first Israeli ambassador since 1967, when relations were broken. For the last three years, he has served as the chief Israeli diplomat in Moscow.

King Receives Soviet Foreign Minister Pankin*JN2010130591 Amman Radio Jordan in Arabic
1200 GMT 20 Oct 91*

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at Raghadan Palace at noon today Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin. Representing the Jordanian side at the meeting were His Excellency al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Court; 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, the king's political adviser; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, the king's military secretary; and Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir. Representing the Soviet side were the Soviet ambassador in Amman, the chief of the Middle East and North Africa Department in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, his assistant, the chief of the Information Department, and the chief of the Foreign Ministry General Secretariat.

Pankin Hails Jordan's Role*JN2010132491 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Oct 91*

[Statements made to journalists by USSR Foreign Minister Boris Pankin on his arrival in Amman on 20 October in Russian fading into Arabic translation, and by Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir in Arabic—recorded]

[Text] [Pankin] I attach extreme importance to any visit to Jordan. The visit takes place at a time the Middle East is at a historic crossroads. A realistic chance to bring peace and stability to all countries and peoples in the region without exception has presented itself. The peace conference, which the Soviet Union and the United States and other concerned parties, including the leadership of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, have made continuous and major efforts to convene, is bound to give momentum to the peace process. With the date of the conference now set and invitations for it sent out, we are now quite close to that event for which we have exerted ourselves. I would like to emphasize to you that the Soviet Union is doing all it can to render the parley a success. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is in the forefront of the coming peace process. We highly appreciate the constructive efforts of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and His Majesty King Husayn personally in the interest of [words indistinct] in the search for peace in the region. Everybody has long been awaiting peace. Now, on the eve of the conference, this position assumes extreme and special importance. I look forward with enthusiasm to meeting and talking with the leadership here in Amman. I hope during my stay in the Jordanian capital I will have the opportunity to exchange views with my colleague the Jordanian foreign minister about all aspects of our bilateral ties. Thank you very much for the warm hospitality.

[Abu-Jabir] On my part, I welcome His Excellency Minister Pankin as he begins his first visit to Jordan and the region. I look forward to productive talks between us and contacts with Soviet officials at the highest level. I

urge his excellency the minister and Soviet officials in the Soviet Union to maintain their support for the just Arab cause, especially as we approach the peace conference in Madrid. Finally, I salute friendship between Jordan and the Soviet Union, and I appreciate the support lent by the Soviet Union, which I hope will be sustained throughout the long and possibly arduous talks with the other side. I ask God to grant us all success.

King, Pankin Discuss Conference*JN2010163691 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Oct 91*

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn received Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin at the prosperous Raghadan Palace at noon today. The discussion dealt with preparations to convene the peace conference in Madrid on 30 October and the need to make all possible efforts to ensure its success and achieve a just and comprehensive peaceful settlement based on international legitimacy, its principles, and its resolutions.

The meeting was attended on behalf of Jordan by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, his majesty the king's political adviser; Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir; His Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, his majesty the king's military secretary; and Dr. Muhammad al-'Adwan, the Jordanian ambassador in Moscow. [passage omitted]

Pankin on Israeli Withdrawal*JN2010192991 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1625 GMT 20 Oct 91*

[Excerpts] Amman, 20 Oct (PETRA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin arrived in Amman this morning on a two-day visit to Jordan within the framework of a tour of the region. [passage omitted]

In a press statement upon his arrival, Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin said that the Soviet Union attaches extreme importance to this visit to Jordan, which takes place at a time when the Middle East stands on the threshold of a historic turning point, since a realistic opportunity to achieve peace and security for all states and peoples in the region without exception has presented itself. [passage omitted]

Asked if the restoration of diplomatic ties between the Soviet Union and Israel will lead to the latter's withdrawal from the occupied territories, Mr. Pankin replied: No one can give such a guarantee. We restored diplomatic ties so that we can hold normal and practical contacts with Israel, which will take place at the conference we will cochair and help to supervise.

Al-Masri, Pankin View Issues

JN2110133391 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] During his reception of Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin this morning, Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri stressed the importance of the Soviet Union's role in the peace conference with regard to pushing the peace process toward attaining a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis. The prime minister explained that Jordan pins great hopes on the Soviet Union's cosponsoring of the conference along with the United States, particularly with regard to stressing the principles and resolutions of international legitimacy that are based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on land for peace. The prime minister also stressed to the Soviet minister the danger that settlements and Israel's continued building of settlements pose to the peace process. He also said the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation will tackle the settlement issue with the necessary frankness and clarity in view of its seriousness and importance. He explained that Israel's seriousness to attain peace depends on how it deals with this important and dangerous issue.

For his part, the Soviet foreign minister explained that his country regards Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for the negotiations at the peace conference, that the Soviet Union has only one understanding of these resolutions, and that the principles they encompass are applicable to all parties. These principles are exchanging land for peace, and the impermissibility of the acquisition of land by force. The Soviet minister also explained that settlement-building violates international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention with regard to protecting citizens under occupation. He added that the Soviet Union will do everything possible to stop Israeli settlement activity with the beginning of the conference. He said he stressed and underlined this issue in particular to the Israeli side during his talks in Tel Aviv, and that the Soviet Union will continue its efforts in this regard.

On the Jordanian side the meeting was attended by the foreign minister and the Jordanian ambassador in Moscow. On the Soviet side, it was attended by the accompanying delegation, and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

Pankin and his delegation left Amman at noon today following a two-day visit to Jordan, during which he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials on the current preparations for convening the peace conference in Madrid on 30 October to attain just and comprehensive peace for the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, Foreign Ministry under secretary, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, the Jordanian ambassador in Moscow, and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

In statements to journalists, the Soviet minister expressed satisfaction with the outcome of his visit to Jordan. He said he held deep and cordial talks with His Majesty King Husayn and with senior Jordanian officials.

For his part, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir described as excellent the results of the Soviet foreign minister's visit to Jordan during which bilateral relations and issues concerning the peace conference were discussed.

Pankin—'Very Successful' Talks

JN2110141691 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Passages within quotation recorded]

[Text] Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin spoke to journalists prior to his departure from Amman on the outcome of his visit.

[Begin Pankin recording in Russian fading into Arabic translation] It was very successful. We held deep, detailed, and cordial talks with His Majesty King Husayn, the prime minister, and my colleague the foreign minister. We had a good opportunity to discuss bilateral issues. We also exchanged views on our positions at the critical stage preparing for the peace conference. It is clear that our positions are similar. The Soviet Union, as one of the sponsors of the conference, and Jordan adhere to their positions in preparing for the conference. I am comfortable with the outcome of this visit, whether it regards the results or in becoming acquainted with this great country, Jordan. I believe now we understand each other more. This is the major outcome of the talks. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir talked to journalists after the departure of the Soviet minister. Responding to a question on the expected meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab front line states, he said: "This is still uncertain, however, we hope that it will take place. We are, in fact, ready for it if such a meeting is held."

Dr. Abu-Jabir said that the Jordanian Government is preparing a list of names of the Jordanian delegation to the peace conference, which it expects to announce before the end of the week.

On Egypt's role in the peace efforts and the Madrid conference, Dr. Abu-Jabir said: "We consider Egypt a major party, and we seek its help to push the process forward. It has a principal role."

On the outcome of the Soviet foreign minister's visit to Jordan, the foreign minister said: "The results are great and excellent. We discussed all aspects of bilateral issues, issues pertaining to the peace conference in Madrid, as well as coordination, etcetera."

Pankin Departs 21 Oct

JN2110112691 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] [Soviet Foreign Minister] Boris Pankin and his delegation left Amman at noon today at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan during which he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn and ranking Jordanian officials on current preparations for convening the peace conference in Madrid on 30th of this month in order to realize a just and comprehensive peace for the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question.

He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, the secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and the Jordanian ambassador in Moscow and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

PLO's 'Arafat Comments on Peace Conference

JN210180291 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1630 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Amman, 20 Oct (PETRA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman at noon today on a one-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and a number of senior Jordanian officials. [passage omitted]

In statements to journalists upon his arrival, President 'Arafat said: I am making this visit to Jordan at a fateful and historical moment in the life of the Arab nation, the Middle East, and the Palestine question, especially since we are only days away from the first session of the Middle East peace conference called for by the U.S. and Soviet Presidents. [passage omitted]

Asked if he will meet with the Soviet foreign minister while in Amman, 'Arafat replied: There is an arrangement which has been agreed upon to meet with him. [passage omitted]

With regard to the convening of the peace conference in Madrid, 'Arafat said: We will all take part in the Middle East peace process. He was referring to the decisions made by the PLO Central Council at its recent meeting in Tunis.

For his part, Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri said: Jordan and the PLO, especially President Yasir 'Arafat, are fully coordinating with one another on all issues related to the peace process. He stressed that each party informs the other about all developments.

Asked about the formation of a higher Jordanian-Palestinian committee to coordinate a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in the negotiations at the peace conference, the prime minister replied: The higher committee is responsible for coordination in general, not for anything specific. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Negotiators Named; To Arrive 25 Oct

JN2110175891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The Palestinian team to the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation has been formed. The 14-member team from the occupied territories is expected to arrive in Amman Friday to meet and coordinate with the Jordanian side before going to Madrid to attend the peace conference.

According to a list we obtained here, the Palestinian figures are: Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi—chairman of the delegation— Ahmad al-Yaziji, Furayh Abu-Midyan, 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad, Zakariya al-Agha, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, Nabil al-Ja'bari, Nabil Qassis, Mamduh al-'Ik, Samih Kan'an, Ghassan al-Khatib, Ilyan Frayj, Mustafa al-Natshah, and Sami al-Kilani.

Our radio has learned that an advisory committee to which the Palestinian team can refer has also been formed. The committee is chaired by Faysal al-Husayni and made up of the following members: Hanan 'Ashrawi, Sari Nusaybah, Zahirah Kamal, Rashid al-Khalidi, Anis Fawzi al-Qasim, and Kamil Mansur.

Our radio also learned that Jordanian and Palestinian experts will meet in Amman tomorrow to prepare documents before the meetings of the joint delegation. At the Jordanian level, Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir said Jordan's delegation will be formed this week—a week he termed heated. The names, he said, will be announced in the next few days.

No 'Official' Invitation to Damascus Meeting Yet

JN2110195291 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif has said that Jordan has always been among those calling for Arab meetings and coordination, especially regarding the peace conference intended to be held in Madrid at the end of this month. Asked by the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY to comment on news reports that a conference will be held among the foreign ministers of the Arab states participating in the peace conference, Mahmud al-Sharif said that so far, Jordan has not received an official invitation to the Damascus meeting.

Jesse Turner Released, Headed for Damascus

NC2110190491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1900 GMT 21 Oct 1

[Text] In an urgent dispatch, REUTER cited security sources a few moments ago as saying that kidnappers have released U.S. hostage Jesse Turner after he spent five years in captivity. The report added that Turner is on his way to Damascus.

Arrives at Syrian Ministry

NC2210080491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0620 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] U.S. hostage Jesse Turner arrived at the Syrian Foreign Ministry in Damascus escorted by the Syrian Forces and accompanied by Assistant UN Secretary General Giandomenico Picco. He will be handed over to the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

Israel Said Obstructing Release of Hostages

NC2110183291 Paris AFP in English 1826 GMT
21 Oct 91

[Text] Beirut, Oct 21 (AFP)—A group holding Western hostages in Lebanon on Monday accused Israel of blocking international efforts to free them and warned it could bring an end to "our goodwill gestures."

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar must "intervene immediately to lift the blockade and prevent aggression against the villages under Israeli occupation in south Lebanon," Islamic Jihad said in a statement to a Western news agency that was accompanied by a photo of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson.

The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, a different group, announced late Sunday that an American hostage would be freed in 24 hours. Reports said that IJLP would free its captive Alann Steen, 52.

Islamic Jihad Denies Seeking Guarantees

NC1810212291 Paris AFP in English 2031 GMT
18 Oct 91

[Text] Beirut, Oct 18 (AFP)—Lebanese kidnappers on Friday denied press reports they had asked for security guarantees for their militants in the event they release Western hostages.

The Islamic Jihad organization said in a statement to the independent newspaper AL-NAHAR that the reports were "lies" and authenticated the denial with a photograph of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson.

"These reports were propagated by agents who want to undermine the sacred goals of our militants," the pro-Iranian Muslim fundamentalist group said. "We are ready to pursue the long and hard road to the jihad (Islamic war)... no matter what efforts our enemies make to combat our Muslim fundamentalism," the statement said.

According to press reports, Islamic Jihad asked for guarantees for its militants during talks Tuesday with a U.S. negotiator on the hostages, Giandomenico Picco, in Lebanon's eastern al-Biq'a Valley. Picco travelled to Lebanon from Syria in the latest effort to free nine Western hostages detained in Lebanon by pro-Iranian groups.

Jihad is holding Anderson and fellow American Thomas Sutherland. Three other Americans, a Briton, two Germans and an Italian have also been abducted in Lebanon.

Al-Hirawi Issues Statement on Return From Syria

NC1810172091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1642 GMT 18 Oct 91

[Text] President of the Republic Ilyas al-Hirawi and his delegation returned to Beirut from Syria a short time ago following a series of meetings held by the Supreme Lebanese-Syrian Council.

The presidency's press office issued the following statement:

The Supreme Lebanese-Syrian Council held successive meetings yesterday and today under the chairmanship of Presidents Ilyas al-Hirawi and Hafiz al-Asad. The meetings were attended on the Lebanese side by Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, and Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr, and on the Syrian side by People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Defense Minister Mustafa Talas.

Lebanese and Syrian ministers who have completed some of the joint agreements stipulated in the treaty of brotherhood, cooperation, and coordination took part in some of the meetings. Discussions centered on the achievements in the economic, agricultural, and industrial fields. The Supreme Council gave instructions to have the remaining agreements completed. The Council also discussed the appointment of a secretary general and an assistant secretary general. Agreement was reached on announcing their names soon.

The Syrian side briefed the Lebanese officials on the outcome of the talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on the expected peace conference. There was complete agreement on the need to separate the implementation of Resolution 425 from the region's issue. The Syrian side expressed support for Lebanon's decision to impose its authority over all its territories with its own forces.

Hizballah Hails al-Nabatiyah 'Heroic Operation'

NC2110122591 (Clandestine) Voice of the
Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The Islamic Resistance has issued a statement on yesterday's heroic operation, saying: While the U.S.

Administration tightens the knots of conspiracy against the region's people and markets the so-called peace conference, to exchange Arab and Islamic security and peace for a legalized Zionist occupation of Palestine and to liquidate the Muslim cause, the honorable mujahidin of the Islamic nation and the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon continue their jihad against the Zionist invaders.

They oppose world blasphemy as it tries to impose hegemony on Muslim lands, interests, and destiny.

At 1013 local time yesterday, the Islamic Resistance Mayfadun martyrs detonated an explosive device under an Israeli patrol of vehicles and soldiers near Tuhray and Dabshah positions in Al-Nabatiyah. Two vehicles were destroyed by fire, and all the personnel were killed. The third vehicle was slightly damaged and its passengers escaped to the mountains.

First aid teams rushed to the area and Zionist helicopters transported some of the wounded. Ambulances carried the dead and wounded, estimated at 15.

The Islamic Resistance promised to continue to oppose the enemy occupying Jabal 'Amil and western Al-Biq'a and to emphasize that jihad is the only way to restore the usurped lands, peace, and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

At 1430 local time yesterday an Israeli intelligence vehicle carrying agent officials arrived to inspect the scene. Enemy helicopters earlier combed the area up to Kafr al-Rumman and Habbush before another landed and removed the dead. At 1615 local time a Merkava tank removed a burned troop carrier and tank.

Syrian Army Intervenes To End Clashes; 10 Dead

NC2110210791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
2000 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Clashes in Ba'labakk between Hizballah and the Ja'far clan ended this evening after Syrian Army officers led by Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Isbir met with Hizballah officials Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik and Shaykh Muhammad Khatun at the Shaykh 'Abdallah

barracks. Red Cross teams entered the town after the Syrian forces deployed at the northern entrance to the town.

According to reports, eight people from the Ja'far clan were killed. Two Hizballah members were also killed. Seventeen people were wounded, including four Hizballah gunmen. Several houses belonging to the Ja'far clan were burned.

The clashes were especially violent in the al-Sharawinah quarter and involved the use of 130mm and 122mm artillery, mortars, machine guns, and RPG's.

Israel Steps Up Military Activity in South

NC2210064691 Paris AFP in English 0559 GMT
22 Oct 91

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Oct 22 (AFP)—The Israeli Air Force fired more than 300 flares over south Lebanon late Monday and simulated several air raids over the coastal city of Tyre, security sources said. Israeli warplanes and helicopters overflew the regions of Tyre and al-Nabatiyah, north of the Israeli-imposed buffer zone of south Lebanon, for more than three hours, the sources said. Warplanes were continuing later to make incursions in the region of Sidon, further to the north.

Israeli patrol boats, which regularly patrol off the Lebanese coast, drew in closer to the shore, AFP correspondents in the region observed.

Earlier Monday, Israeli aircraft struck a Hizballah base near al-Nabatiyah in a raid seen as retaliation for a bomb attack there Sunday on Israeli troops which left three Israeli soldiers dead.

Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), earlier shelled three villages for 30 minutes just north of the buffer zone. The SLA called a night curfew at al-Nabatiyah and threatened to fire on anyone found breaking it.

Former Hostage Turner Arrives in Damascus

NC2210063691 Paris AFP in English 0627 GMT
22 Oct 91

[Text] Damascus, Oct 22 (AFP)—Freed American hostage Jesse Turner arrived here early Tuesday from Beirut, the U.S. Embassy said. An embassy official said Turner, who was released late Monday by his Lebanese kidnappers after nearly five years of detention, would give a press conference at 9:00 a.m. (0700 GMT) at the Syrian Foreign Ministry.

Turner Handed Over to Ambassador Ross

JN2210084291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic
Radio Network in Arabic 0815 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Damascus—Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, handed over the U.S. hostage Jesse Turner, who was released in Lebanon, to the U.S. ambassador in Damascus, Christopher Ross, before the Arab and international press.

On this occasion, Qaddur made a statement in which he said: We are happy as usual when we receive here, at the Foreign Ministry, one of the released hostages. We congratulate Mr. Turner on his release, as well as his family and friends, and we hope that the problem of all hostages will be solved.

Qaddur stressed that Syria will continue to make every effort to help in the release of all the hostages. He reminded that President Hafiz al-Asad is personally interested in the release of all hostages.

Ambassador Expresses Thanks

JN2210093991 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT
22 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Damascus, 22 Oct (SANA)—Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, handed over the U.S. hostage Jesse Turner, who was released in Lebanon, to the U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross in attendance of Arab and international press. [passage omitted]

In a statement, the U.S. ambassador welcomed Turner's release from captivity and expressed, in the name of U.S. President George Bush, his gratitude to President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Government for the efforts they made to secure Turner's release. The ambassador said he hoped the release of the American hostage would be another step toward the release of all other hostages.

The U.S. ambassador also thanked the international organizations and the UN secretary general's representative for their efforts to secure the release of the American hostage. Turner said in a statement to the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY reporter that he had learned that Syria exerted intensive efforts to free him and that it is trying to secure the release of the other hostages. Turner added: I am very happy to be with my family and friends again.

Al-Shar, USSR's Pankin Comment on Talks

JN2010102291 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0928 GMT
20 Oct 91

[Text] Damascus, 20 Oct (SANA)—Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin and his wife left Damascus this morning at the end of a three-day visit to Syria.

He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his wife, a number of senior Foreign Ministry employees, and the Soviet ambassador in Damascus.

Prior to his departure, Pankin made statements to journalists in which he said he was pleased with his visit to Syria and with his important meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, which was characterized by amity and frankness. He said: We had a chance to discuss bilateral relations, the situation in the Middle East, and preparations for convening the Middle East peace conference. He stressed that Resolutions 242 and 338 will be the core of discussions with regard to all issues that will be listed on the conference agenda. Pankin added: We exchanged information on the situations inside our two countries. I now firmly believe that President Hafiz al-Asad follows with great interest the situation and developments in the Soviet Union. He indicated that both sides expressed satisfaction with the efforts to convene the peace conference on 30 October in Madrid. He said: Convening the conference is an important step on the road to developing the peace process in the Middle East and attaining tangible results. Within this context, he said: Difficulties and hardships still stand before us, and we have expressed our hope that positions will be constructive, serious, and realistic.

For his part, Faruq al-Shar' was asked about the talks he held with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin. Al-Shar' said: We discussed with Pankin preparations for the peace conference which will be held on 30 October. He added: We also discussed the details of the role of the Soviet Union and the United States in cosponsoring the conference. We are satisfied with Pankin's visit. Al-Shar' also said: I am certain that the Soviet Union will play an effective and important role in the peace conference along with the United States. We will continue our contacts with the Soviet Union before and after the conference.

PLO's 'Arafat Praises 'Fraternal' Visit, Departs

JN2010113491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic
Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the accompanying delegation left Damascus this morning after a two-day visit to Syria. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and the PLO representative in Damascus.

In a predeparture statement, Yasir 'Arafat expressed his pleasure at meeting President Hafiz al-Asad. He

described the meeting as friendly, fraternal, and positive. He said: We felt sincere feelings and militant fraternity while standing in the same trench facing these challenges as an Arab nation raising the slogan—to be or not to be—under the international and regional developments that shackled the region during the past years.

'Arafat added: This requires more linkage, sympathy, unified views, and unity of the Arab stand, which President Hafiz al-Asad is truly and sincerely concerned to achieve. The Arab nation should adopt such a stand while facing all these challenges on the various levels.

'Arafat said: I felt President Hafiz al-Asad's concern about the Palestinian Arab people's rights and the need to seize these rights in these difficult circumstances in which the peace conference is considered a battle our Arab nation is facing on the political level. There are battles on the diplomatic, economic, and media levels, and on all levels. The Arab nation is waging an ongoing battle on all these fronts.

He expressed hope that the effects of this Arab development will be felt through a five-way meeting that will be followed by an Arab meeting that will reorganize its ranks, reunite the Arab stand, and restore the weight of our Arab nation in the new world order so that it will not be formulated at our expense. We should participate in building this order and in placing its bricks as a nation that has its own existence, civilization, and glory.

Concluding his statement, 'Arafat thanked President Hafiz al-Asad, in his own name and on behalf of the accompanying delegation and the PLO Executive Committee, for the fraternal and militant stands conveyed by President Hafiz al-Asad in every word that he said during the meeting.

Coordination Needed To Foil Israeli 'Disruption'

JN2010082091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic
Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 Oct 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, AL-BA'TH deals with the invitations to the Middle East peace conference sent by the U.S. and Soviet presidents. AL-BA'TH stresses the importance of this step and regards it as historic. The paper calls on all to be aware of the importance of this unique opportunity, and the need for serious work to reach acceptable solutions that would establish just and comprehensive peace based on UN resolutions and international legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH says: It is very well known that the Arabs have fully responded to international legitimacy, and at the same time stressed their readiness to do everything

possible to attain just and comprehensive peace and entrench the principle of international legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH adds: We, the Arabs, fully realize that Israel does not want just and comprehensive peace. Recent days have revealed some aspects of what Israel wants out of the scheduled peace conference. Israel wants from the conference everything but a just peace. It wants to keep the Arab occupied territories and to negotiate with the Arabs on issues that can only be tackled after the realization of a genuine peace process represented in the restoration of all Arab usurped rights based on UN resolutions and international legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH concludes: At any rate, since the date of the peace conference has been officially fixed, all efforts must be pooled to find a just and comprehensive settlement in the region. Hence, the most dangerous hotbed of tension in the world would be eliminated.

TISHRIN's editorial tackles the importance of a unified Arab position in light of the peace conference due to convene in Madrid. The paper says: The international move to convene the Madrid conference as scheduled with the participation of Presidents Bush and Gorbachev is strong enough to prevent the Israeli rulers from defying the entire world. They will be forced to take part, although they plan to disrupt the conference from within, divert it from its courses, and drown it in secondary issues irrelevant to the essence of the conflict—the Palestinian rights and the occupied territories.

TISHRIN adds: It is natural for the Arabs to confront the Israeli disruptive attempts, and focus international effort toward the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 which stipulate the impermissibility of the acquisition of land by force, Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The paper stresses that successful confrontation requires comprehensive Arab coordination that reaches the level of one position and one viewpoint. It also requires continued entrenchment of contacts with friendly countries and governments.

The paper adds: Within this framework falls Syria's efforts to coordinate positions with all the brothers and raise the Arab position to the level of a single viewpoint. President al-Asad's visit to Cairo and his talks with President Mubarak, the Syrian-Lebanese Supreme Council meetings, and Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Damascus, also fall within this framework.

TISHRIN concludes: The unified Arab position not only guarantees foiling Israeli disruption, but also guarantees the support of the world and the two superpowers for a just and comprehensive solution that would restore to the Arabs all their occupied territories and safeguard the rights of the people of Palestine. There can be no peace without the restoration of rights and land.

Afghanistan

Government Retakes Town Near Gardeyz

BK2010164591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1634 GMT
20 Oct 91

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 20 (AFP)—Afghan rebels have suffered a serious blow in their bid to seize the eastern cities of Gardeyz and Jalalabad, losing two important commanders and a strategic base to government forces, rebel sources said Sunday.

In a counteroffensive Friday, government troops recaptured the Sarori mountains to the south of Gardeyz, the rebels said, conceding losses for the first time since Afghan President Najibullah said the attack was repulsed last week.

Sarori was recently overrun by the mujahedin after a four-pronged attack mounted September 30.

The multi-party joint offensive launched under the guerrillas' ace commander, Jalaluddin Haqqani, was halted by the government forces a week later when the rebels claimed they were poised to enter Gardeyz, the gateway to Kabul.

The pro-resistance MIDIA News Agency said Haqqani's deputy commander, Farooq, 40, died in the mujahedin attempt to recapture Sarori.

The small town, about 12 kilometres (seven miles) south of Gardeyz, overlooks the mujahedin route to the garrison city from the south, southeast and southwest.

The battle for Gardeyz was among the heaviest in the 13-year history of the civil war in Afghanistan, and independent sources said casualties on both sides ran into the hundreds.

The mujahedin losses mostly came from repeated aerial bombardments and Scud missile attacks on their bases. The resistance lost more than 100 people when two underground bunkers collapsed last week.

An important resistance leader who requested anonymity claimed Haqqani was betrayed by an Afghan general who, promising a peaceful en masse surrender, attacked his fighters and prevented the fall of Gardeyz.

Last March, hundreds of Afghan soldiers and officers surrendered to Haqqani in nearby Khowst after the troops were offered amnesty by the mujahedin.

In an apparent move to reduce pressure on Gardeyz, the rebels opened a second front in Jalalabad, Afghanistan's third-largest city, but no major headway has been reported so far.

Mir Bacha Khan, another well-known commander, died a few days ago while thwarting an attempt by government troops to reopen the Kabul-Jalalabad highway, MIDIA said.

Bacha Khan was a member of the fundamentalist Jamiat Islami faction of Burhanuddin Rabbani.

MIDIA, which also reflects the official view of the rebel government-in-exile based in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar, said the highway remained "closed for general traffic."

It did not say if the mujahedin had intercepted any military supplies to the beleaguered garrison, but it said heavy fighting was continuing in Darunta, Chapparhar, Towghar, Rodat and Samarkheyl districts, close to Jalalabad.

Meanwhile, the state-run Radio Kabul, monitored here, said the guerrillas launched a two-pronged rocket attack on Mehtarlam in Laghman Province. Two civilians were killed and five injured as the rebel barrage slammed into the provincial capital.

The attack from both the north and south destroyed several houses and shops and three vehicles, the radio said.

Rebel Positions Around Jalalabad Being Bombed

BK2110134191 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 20 Oct 91 p 10

[From "PT Bureau"]

[Text] Peshawar, Oct. 20—Mujahedin positions around the besieged city of Jalalabad remained under carpet bombings since last night where a number of people were reportedly killed or injured.

AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY [ANA] correspondent reported from the province that the regime bombers dropped cluster bombs over mujahedin positions. Exact number of the dead and injured could not be ascertained. The most affected areas in the aerial bombardment were Chaprahar, Ghaziabad farms 1, 2 and 3 and the Rodat district. Skirmishes between mujahedin and the regime forces were reported at Chaprahar, south of Jalalabad while the other fronts around the garrison remained silent today.

A front line commander of Hezb-e Islami, Qari Mohajid was seriously injured while one mujahid amputated his leg when he stepped over a landmine at the Chaprahar front today. Both of them were rushed to Peshawar for medical aid.

In Gardeyz, the belligerent sides exchanged heavy artillery fire today. Mujahedin remained busy in fortifying their positions while the regime airforce carried out ineffective air sorties.

Meanwhile, ANA correspondent in Miranshah [place-name as published], Haji Miaki Khan Walikheyl and the military spokesman of commander Jalaluddin Haqqani, Yaqoob Shariatyar, have contradicted a news item

appearing in a section of the Press regarding the recapture of Saruri [placename as published] post by the regime forces.

Both maintained that mojahedin have not lost control over this strategic post. Yaqoob Shariatyar disclosed that the regime forces had withdrawn from a nearby military base but before mojahedin could take over the Bari military base the regime forces reinforced their troops. Mojahedin are now poised for attack on this military base.

Bangladesh

Minister Denies Reports of Famine in North

BK1910164691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Oct 91

[Text] Briefing newsmen in the capital this evening on the flood-related problems of eight northern districts, Acting Prime Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz has said the situation in the areas will further improve as the harvesting of aman [fall season] crop begins in about a month. Mirza Hafiz described as baseless the reports published in some newspapers of acute scarcity of food and deaths due to starvation in the northern areas. He said traditionally these two months before winter harvesting is considered as a lean period and there is comparatively less economic activity in the rural areas during this time. The acting prime minister categorically declared that there is no food shortage in our country. He called for objective dissemination of news and said actual reports can help modify the government's policy. Four other ministers also spoke at the news briefing. They are: Information Minister Najmul Huda, Food Minister Shamsul Islam, Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, and State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan. Agriculture Minister Majedul Haq was also present.

The information minister said the press now enjoys full freedom under the present democratic government. It is also the responsibility of the journalists to project the realities. The food minister said there is enough food in the northern areas. Detailing district-wide figures, he said there is more than 2 and a 1/2 lakh tons of food in the government's stock. The health minister said medicines worth over 4 crore taka have so far been sent to the northern areas. He said about 2,400 medical teams are working in the diarrhea-affected areas. He said so far diarrheal deaths of 1,714 have been confirmed by the local authorities. The state minister for relief said 371,250 special (identity) cards have been issued in the greater districts of Rangpur and Dinajpur during the last 1 and 1/2 months. Over 20,000 tons of wheat have been released so far for the test relief program in these two greater districts.

Burmese Refugee 'Problem' Continues

BK2010070791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0516 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 20 (AFP)—Bangladesh might bring up the problem of Burmese refugees at international forums and seek China's help to stop the continued exodus, officials and reports said here Sunday.

"The Burmese military government has not responded positively to our letter on the exodus of the refugees and we will seek international help if diplomatic initiatives bear no fruit," one official said.

Dhaka informed Rangoon on the issue at the diplomatic level earlier this month.

According to refugee sources in the southeastern port city of Chittagong, up to 60,000 Rohingya Moslems have fled their homes in Burma's Arakan area and have taken shelter in the tourist town of Cox's Bazar and nearby sub-districts.

The Bengali-language Daily ITTEFAQ, quoting unidentified officials, said Sunday that Dhaka would ask China for help. Beijing maintains close ties with both Dhaka and Rangoon.

If that failed, the issue would be placed before the United Nations as well as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The officials said Dhaka in its complaint to the Rangoon government had said that law and order had deteriorated in the areas where refugees have taken shelter, and that it was difficult to support the refugees as Bangladesh had its own economic problems.

Dhaka, in the letter, hoped that refugees would immediately be repatriated, the official said.

Officially, the Dhaka government has refused to comment to the press on the issue whenever contacted, except that they were investigating the exodus.

Rohingya leaders said their people were fleeing torture and religious persecution by Burmese troops and added that Bangladesh officials had not mistreated them.

"I think the issue can only be solved at international forums and we have already informed the U.N. and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), one leader said.

Officials here said it was impossible for the government to force refugees back to their homes due to "humanitarian grounds."

The ITTEFAQ said the government was planning to open refugee camps and had asked local officials to be alert and identify the refugees, many of whom have moved in with relatives or friends.

Sources alleged that arms and drug dealers were using the refugees who were buying weapons in the black

market to fight the Burmese government. Rohingya leaders told AFP they had a group of about 6,000 armed refugees.

These refugees are trained in bushy hills on the bordering areas, they said.

"The drug menace in Cox's Bazar and the adjoining areas has also increased after the arrival of the Burmese people," a resident of the area said.

Bangladesh and Burma are separated by the narrow Naf River and border crossing is a common phenomenon, which had resulted in widespread smuggling in the bordering areas over the years.

The Rohingya Moslems are a minority in Burma and are treated by the majority Burmans as settlers or "guests." Their forefathers settled in Arakan possibly after migrating from the Indian sub-continent, but no definite origin is available.

India

BJP Leader Accuses U.S. of 'Arm-Twisting'

BK1910143691 Delhi PATRIOT in English
9 Oct 91 p 6

[By our special correspondent]

[Text] In a sharp reaction to U.S. trade representative Carla Hills' advice to India in New Delhi yesterday the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] on Tuesday [8 October] said that it would be better for the developed world to listen to its own enlightened men and permit developing countries freely to use all foreign patents in industries producing for the domestic market.

Referring to Ms. Hills' assertion that once the U.S. shared its data with India then "Our point of view will be India's point of view," BJP Vice President K.R. Malkani said sarcastically "if that, indeed, is so, let the U.S. share its data with us, and then leave the deciding to us."

Mr. Malkani said the fact was that the U.S. was not willing to remove the Damocles sword of Super 301 over our head. The further fact was that it had already retaliated by banning some Indian drugs, the BJP vice-president said accusing Washington of "arm-twisting" in these trade negotiations.

The U.S. trade representative had said in a press conference in the Capital that it was in India's interest to loosen up its patent laws and New Delhi should go along with the U.S. on what it called Intellectual Property Rights, Mr. Malkani said in his statement.

Mr. Malkani said that in his opinion it would be better if it was left to us to decide what was in our own best interest. "And India is near-unanimous about continuing our patent laws as it is," he added.

Referring to the U.S. trade representatives' desire to allow the U.S. to trade in its services with India, Mr. Malkani said that the Indian government must make it clear to Washington that U.S. services in banking and insurance that though "we deeply appreciate Ms. Hills' anxiety for increased U.S. investment in and trade with India" but it took two to invest and to trade. The BJP was sorry to note that the U.S. backed out of Bokaro Steel project after making us wait for the same for years, he pointed out.

"All that its investors seem to offer is Pepsi Cola and potato chips," Mr. Malkani said adding that in any case India had a continental market of our own.

National Group Opposes U.S. Stand on Patent Law

BK2110114591 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES
in English 12 Oct 91 p 9

[By HINDUSTAN TIMES correspondent]

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 11—The National Working Group on Patent Laws today accused U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills of having tried to "disinform and confuse the Indian people through the media that the changes advocated by the U.S. in the patent regime would be a panacea for solving the ills of the Indian economy."

In a press statement on Ms. Hills' recent visit here, the Working Group said: "We are totally in disagreement with this view espoused by the U.S. Trade Representative. Our contention is that the total package on TRIPs (Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights), when applied, would be a sure recipe for economic and technological subjugation of the country."

The changes proposed by the U.S., it contended, would only result in the future of the country being forever mortgaged to the multinational corporations. Apart from the health sector, the smooth development of the indigenous agriculture would be in jeopardy as the new patent regime advocated by Ms. Hills sought to extend industrial patents to agriculture, as well.

"The chief beneficiary of the proposed changes would not be the Indian farmer, but the multinational corporations who have started selling patented seeds to increase their control over the global economy. The Indian industry would also lose across the board. The proposed changes would make commercial working of patents in the country impossible for several of Indian industries."

The Working Group noted that the future of many new areas such as superconductors, new materials and biotechnology would suffer severely. According to it, the position stated by Ms. Carla Hills on the patent issue should be examined on the basis of the total package under TRIPs, which is for 20 years' product patent term, treating of importation as working of patent, sublicensing of patent on the economic value of the licensee as

opposed to royalty payment on the basis of turnover and "reversal of burden of proof" in the case of process payment that would be applicable after the expiry of product patent.

This package, according to the Working Group, would give a serious setback to the competitive environment established in the country in the last two decades through the Indian Patents Act, 1970. The objective of self-reliance would be defeated.

The Working Group described as "fallacious" the argument of Ms. Hills that prices of drugs and pharmaceuticals in the country would decrease with the introduction of the new patent regime. On the contrary, the prices would rise several times if the product patent was introduced in the field of drugs and pharmaceuticals, for product patent establishes the monopolistic regime where prices go up substantially.

According to the Group, introduction of product patents and acceptance of the package of conditions would in the course of next five-ten years would result in a 50 per cent rise in the turnover of patented drugs "and we shall be paying through our nose."

The Group, while complimenting Commerce Minister P. Chidambaram and Minister of State for Industry P.J. Kurien for taking a firm stand on the patent issue, wanted the Government to issue a comprehensive Press communique on the talks with Ms. Carla Hills. "There should be no compromise on the principled stand taken so far by the country in the multinational forum on the patents and other GATT issues", the Working Group has said in its statement.

Associates of Gandhi Murder Suspect Arrested

BK2210104291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] In Tamil Nadu, three persons, including two LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants suspected to be close associates of Sivarasan, the prime suspect in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, were arrested yesterday from a flat on the outskirts of Dindigul town. The police said the two militants attempted to fire at the police and to swallow cyanide. They tried to jump out of their second-floor flat window, but were overpowered. The militants have been sent to Madras for further interrogation.

Iran

UN Envoy Kharrazi Surveys Regional Issues

LD2110192391 Tehran IRNA in English 1817 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA—Iran's permanent representative at the United Nations organisations, Kamal Kharrazi has said that the Islamic Republic will not be indifferent to the presence of American forces in the

Persian Gulf. The physical presence of U.S. forces in the region, he noted, is the cause of all "instability and unrest".

Interviewed by the Persian daily ABRAR during a homecoming visit, Kharrazi said Iran is striving to make Persian Gulf states realize that regional security will be possible only upon the involvement of all Persian Gulf states, except of course Iraq which, he said, should be excluded from any plan because it has been responsible for two unprovoked wars in the region.

Asked to comment on allegations by certain American sources on Iran's atomic violations, he said wants [as received] atomic energy only for peaceful purposes not for developing nuclear weapons because Iran is basically against the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and that in 1975 it offered a proposed plan for declaring the Middle East a nuclear free zone.

Kharrazi reminded that Iran's atomic energy organization, too, had emphatically refuted the allegations by those foreign sources.

On the issue of Palestine, he said Iran's position continues to be as it has ever been. "Our position," he said, "is that a Palestinian government should rule throughout occupied Palestine."

Tehran is currently hosting an international conference on the rights of Palestinian people, attended by government officials and prominent revolutionaries from around the world including Palestinian leaders who oppose the sell out of Palestinian rights planned by the United States in Madrid, Spain, later this month.

Adverting to the human rights situation in Iran, Kharrazi said the Islamic Republic offers the Human Rights Commission in Geneva regular reports on the status of the human rights in order to clear mists from some minds. "Those executed in Iran have been drug traffickers whose freedom would mean widespread addiction and drug-related corruption at the national level. Those executions have never been politics-related," he added.

Iran's permanent envoy to the world body said the Islamic Republic is striving to become a member of the U.N. Security Council without abandoning any of its original positions on international issues. He said this does not even mean that Iran should have dropped its opposition to the veto power vested solely in a few states at the United Nations. The full text of Kharrazi's interview with ABRAR is to be appear in the the daily ABRAR tomorrow.

Velayati—Fate of Peace Conference 'Clear'

LD2010171591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Walid Junbalatt, Lebanese Druze leader and secretary general of the Lebanese Socialist Party, at a meeting today with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar

Velayati, expressed gratitude for the conference in support of the Islamic revolution of the Palestinian people and for the important, pivotal role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region. Commenting on the U.S. peace conference for the Middle East, he said: Israel will not give any concessions in this conference and the Arab leaders will not gain, either. The outcome of the conference is clear now. Velayati, in reply, while reiterating support for the Islamic revolution of Palestine, said: The fate of a peace conference, which is set up with Israel's pre-conditions, is known now.

Plot To Blight Iran-Pakistan Ties Alleged

NC2210113491 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 8 Oct 91 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Tehran-Islamabad Friendly Ties and Pakistan's Responsibility in This Regard"]

[Excerpts] Pakistan is a land of virtue and blessings which has nurtured noble, sincere, pious, and virtuous people who value their Islamic beliefs of honesty and honour. Pakistan has always had extremely warm and cordial ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

Common views and stances on many issues helps the two nations cooperate and concur on shared interests. [passage omitted]

The Pakistani government tried to catch the murderers of Syed Arif Hussain Hussaini, the late Pakistani Shiite leader, but took so long and were so lax that after four years the murderers remain at large.

Naturally murder is despicable and cannot be justified but the Pakistani Government and judicial apparatus are shirking their responsibility. There are those who would take the law into their own hands but this might not benefit the government and the judicial system therefore whatever steps are taken should not encourage them.

"Fazl-e Haq", known in Pakistan as one of Hussain's murderers, was killed under conditions created by the overt and covert hands which seek to tarnish Iranian-Pakistani friendship and link the Islamic Republic of Iran to the incident.

This is ridiculous and Pakistan's judicial apparatus should be as negligent trying to find Haq's killers.

Who is behind the murder of Fazl-e Haq? The answer is an enigma even for the Pakistani judiciary but we can speculate: Some Israeli spies were arrested near the India-Pakistan border near Pakistani nuclear installations.

It seems they were trying to mar Indian-Pakistani relations, disrupt the installations, and blame India so "triggering an explosion" between India and Pakistan.

Could it be that Fazl-e Haq's killers are from the same source and were being used to create religious disturbances in Pakistan by capitalizing on lax Pakistani judicial authorities.

Attacks on Iran's consulate in Peshawar, by ruffians who had obviously been instigated, are dangerous for Pakistan. A group has been assigned to create insecurity, disorder, and the conditions to achieve its own specific objectives.

The Pakistani Government can comprehend the extent of these dangers and that is why it should not permit Pakistan's security to be shattered by the money and the direction of some foreign embassies.

Events of the past few days demand a serious and effective Pakistani Government reaction. Indifference to the attack on Iran's consulate could clear the way for those out to settle scores with Pakistan's enemies and popularize a trend, chastizing embassies in Pakistan which are interfering in its internal affairs. Under these conditions the embassies of the United States, and Saudi Arabia will be subjected to attacks by some indignant people.

The Pakistani Government has a clear responsibility and any procrastination will harm Iran-Pakistan relations. This needs to be understood as it highlights the responsibility of each individual according to his position in Pakistani decision-making.

Velayati Meets With Hizballah's Musawi

LD2210085191 Tehran IRNA in English 1541 GMT
21 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 21, IRNA—Leader of Hizballah of Lebanon Sayyid 'Abbas Musawi said to Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today that he was pleased to notice the prevalence of identical views among participants at the ongoing international conference on Palestine.

"The Hizballah will hold out in its struggle against the Zionist regime until the city of Qods [Jerusalem] was liberated," he vowed. In response Velayati said that the interests of the Arab people are in sharp contrast to the goal of the organizers of the so-called Mideast peace conference in Madrid. He said the Madrid conference is incapable of solving the issue of Palestine.

Velayati added that a regime (Zionist) whose existence depends on force and aggression will not yield to peaceful gestures, "therefore, the struggle for the liberation of Qods should continue." He said Iran will continue to support all strugglers who are fighting for the liberation of Palestine.

Commentary on Realizing Palestinian Aspirations

NC2110215391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic
Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0445 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Central News Unit research group commentary]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Now that a new era of international relations is in the making, America—as the government seeking the most intervention and influence in the region—is looking for arrangements that will stabilize it as the superintendent of regional affairs. The regime occupying Jerusalem has emerged as its major and strategic base in the region. The main mission of this regime that was forged in the heart of the world of Islam by the major victors of World War II is to safeguard and defend the West's interests from political uprisings and revolutions in the region. It is with this agenda in mind that this regime has been made stronger in many economic and military fields than other countries in the region.

Throughout the past 50 years, many of the regional peoples and governments rose to fight against this regime because of the overt aggression that had taken place in the region. Thus the region passed one of the most volatile eras in its political life. But under the new conditions when the West's dependence on the region has increased, the engineers of the new world order think that political upheavals in the Middle East are no longer to the benefit of the arrogant governments and they thus intend to adopt policies to establish calm in one way or another.

The Palestine problem has become a target in all this, something that would not have happened without the transformation of many of the region's political leaders. These leaders, the political and ruling legitimacy of whom in the past decades was achieved through their opposition to the existence of the regime occupying Jerusalem, have—by deviating from the correct path of the struggle against the Zionist occupiers—included the Palestine problem in unstable political calculations and have sacrificed it for the sake of continuing their personal rule.

The Palestinian people and combatants have suffered many unfavorable problems and difficulties up to now and a study of their fight against the existence of Zionism calls for a separate talk. But it can be said in a nutshell that from the time when signs emerged of the major treachery of illegitimately establishing the racist Israeli Government, popular movements were also organized. These movements were able—in the process of their evolution—to defend the rights of Palestinian refugees up to a point. But because of the interference and influence of politicians and compromisers, these movements have not been able to revive the full rights of the Palestinian. Thus the oppressed Palestinians who have not been able to achieve their full rights—either through the intervention of some governments alleging to support them or because of some compromising leaders—

found a new enthusiasm in their struggles and that was the emergence of the intifadah and the movement from within for keeping the flame of the fight against the occupying Zionists alive.

At a time when many of the regional governments are moving toward imminent recognition of the usurping Israeli Government because of their psychological and personal weaknesses stemming from their defeatist attitude vis-a-vis U.S. policies in the region, the Palestinian people's intifadah is an uprising that inspires hope for preserving the aspirations of Palestine. In addition to supporting the interests of the world of Islam vis-a-vis the front of blasphemy and atheism, staying faithful to these aspirations is tantamount to defending humanity and respect vis-a-vis depravity and bullying.

The international conference in support for Palestine now meeting in Tehran is an answer to the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people and it is hoped that it will be able to result in effective and practical support for the Palestinian combatants and be a turning point for a new movement for the revival of the oppressed Palestinians's rights. Because of this religious ideal, the Tehran conference cannot be indifferent to the false propaganda of those who are following the so-called peace conference. Even though the Tehran conference is being held at a specific juncture, it has to chart practical ways to support the lofty aspiration of liberating the occupied territories.

Statistics Center Reports Average Income, Expenses

LD2010215291 Tehran IRNA in English 1910 GMT
20 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 20, IRNA—The average income of an urban family was more than 1.4 million rials in 1368 (1989-90), while its expenses stood at more than two million rials, Iran's statistics center here has reported.

It said the average expenses of an urban family was 2,086,138 rials (monthly 173,845 rials), up by 15.9 percent as compared with the preceding year. The annual expenses of a rural family during the same year was 1,307,247 rials (monthly 108,937 rials), up by 23.5 percent compared with the year 1367.

Foodstuff and cigarette comprised 44.6 percent and 43.9 percent of the total expenses of an urban family in 1367 and 1368 respectively, while the figures were 52.3 percent and 51.8 percent for a rural family. A review of the sources of income of the urban and rural families in 1368 shows that 36.9 percent of the incomes of the urban families came from wages and salaries, 28.4 percent from agricultural and non-agricultural jobs, and 34.7 percent from miscellaneous incomes.

As for the rural families, 24.3 percent of incomes came from wages and salaries, 56.9 percent from agricultural and non-agricultural jobs, and 18.8 percent from miscellaneous incomes. Meat had the highest share of the foodstuff expenses of an urban family (31.6 percent) in

1368, while flour and cereals with 23.5 percent took the highest share of the foodstuff expenses of a rural family.

Housing absorbed 49 percent of the total non-foodstuff expenses of an urban family in 1368, up by 17.5 percent as compared with the preceding year, while the highest share of the non-foodstuff expenses of a rural family (29.2 percent) went to clothing and shoes in the same year, up by 27.7 percent compared with the preceding year.

*** Investments in Ghana Exceeding \$2.7 Million**

92AS0125A Tehran SALAM in Persian 2 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] Since last year, Iran has invested more than \$2.7 million in the program to expand Ghana's agricultural and rural sector. Mohammad Faraji, the Iranian ambassador to Ghana, in announcing this, said that Iran's aid to Ghana is aimed at raising the quality of agricultural and rural living standards as part of Iran's investment in Ghana's economic reform program. This includes mechanizing agriculture and building a clinic for women by the Iranian Red Crescent.

He added: So far more than 77 different groups in north Ghana which were included in the plant genetic development program were able in an area of 6,000 hectares to grow rice, corn and almonds. He also said: In this program major roads as well as schools will be built.

Faraji discussed continued cooperation between Iran and Ghana. He said: In the coming year the two nations will review their relations. He added: Because of its important and fateful role among the nations of the Third World, Iran wishes to cooperate with Ghana.

*** Varamin's New Mayor Named**

92AS0125B Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
2 Oct 91 p 4

[Text] Varamin—ETTELA'AT Correspondent—By order of the governor-general of Tehran, Mr. Mas'ud Vosuqi was named as the new mayor of Varamin.

Pakistan

Finance Minister on Trade, Development Aid

BK1710053791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
17 Oct 91 p 3

[From the "World Bank/IMF 1991 Special" section]

[Text] Pakistan is not worried by the prospect of a shift in industrial countries' assistance from developing countries to Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union—providing aid is not tied to certain conditions, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Sartaj Aziz said yesterday.

He urged Western and other industrial countries to give recipient countries freedom to buy the cheapest goods available and not require them to buy only from donor countries.

In an interview with the BANGKOK POST, the minister said products at low prices from developing countries will be competitive enough for them to be sold to reforming countries.

In this way, the international donor community would benefit both the countries in transition and also those developing countries which have acquired the capacity to provide the required goods at competitive international prices, he said.

Citing Pakistan's trade with Germany, Mr. Aziz said last year saw his nation's first trade surplus with that country is a result of greater demands for Pakistani goods when German unification brought increased purchases from the former East Germany.

Mr. Aziz, who is leading his country's delegation to the World Bank/IMF annual meetings, said that after three decades of extensive debate on alternative development strategies a consensus is emerging in support of a market-oriented policy for development.

But new opportunities which open up could be squandered by certain international forces. It would be tragic for countries which have embarked on major reform to deregulate their economy and to accelerate the process of privatisation and open the economy to international business, like Pakistan, he said.

"At this stage we need a favourable environment in which we can carry out our reform."

During the last six months, Pakistan under the Nawaz Sharif Government has undergone reform more fundamentally than at any other time in the last 10 to 20 years.

The problem of trade access, he said, could threaten the reform if international markets remain protected.

Pakistan hopes negotiations in the Uruguay Round will succeed in opening up more markets in the areas of textiles and other products.

Mr. Aziz expressed concern over international capital flows, especially from the World Bank, while countries like Pakistan need larger access to capital especially, support to go to private investment.

Moreover, the Official Development Assistance (ODA) is not increasing fast enough, and last year its net flows were negative.

On the debt problem, the Pakistani minister said unless the financial package is expanded and extended on reasonable terms it could plunge 10 to 15 more countries including Pakistan into debt crisis.

Despite having met its debt obligations and having never defaulted, Pakistan stands to get into debt if it cannot get loans on reasonable terms and has to turn to those at steeper interest rates.

Commenting on calls for cuts in military spending by World Bank and IMF officials, Mr. Aziz said the issue cannot be discussed independently because it depends on the geopolitical environment of the World and the region.

"It is a matter of security, which in our case depends on our relations with India," he said.

Pakistan would also like to reduce its defence spending if its relations with its neighbour improve significantly, adding that recently they are moving in that direction.

Sharif On Peaceful Relations With Neighbors

BK2210035791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan wants to live in peace with its neighbors and is desirous of resolving bilateral issues by peaceful means. Speaking at a function organized by the Zimbabwe-Pakistan Association in Harare last night, he made special reference to his talks with his Indian counterpart in Harare. He said they had decided to resolve all issues through peaceful dialogue. He said we should make efforts to minimize tension and resolve the Kashmir and other issues peacefully in order to enable the two countries to spend their resources for the welfare of the people.

Highlighting his government's efforts toward the development of the country, he said we are determined to make Pakistan an extremely prosperous and developed country. Work toward this objective has begun and we will realize our goals with honesty and sincerity. He said we will rid the country of internal and external debts through our policy of privatization and economic liberalization and deficit financing will be done away with. Revolutionary steps will be taken to balance the budget.

Amid the applause of a big gathering of Pakistanis living in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, who arrived in Harare to receive the prime minister, Nawaz Sharif announced that the mistakes of the past will be overcome and said we will not rest in peace until the nation is freed from all problems. He assured the overseas Pakistanis that for their convenience, customs regulations have been relaxed in Pakistan's airports and they will not have any difficulty in future.

Radio Pakistan representative Tanvir Siddiqi reports the prime minister announced assistance of \$5,000, medicines, and surgical equipment for a eye project of the Zimbabwe-Pakistan Association.

Earlier, the president of the association, Dr. Riaz Ahmad Khan, delivered the welcoming address.

Sri Lanka

Security Forces Capture Strategic Islands

BK2010113291 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Oct 91

[Text] Heavy LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) terrorist casualties were reported as Sri Lanka's security forces in a lightning air, sea, and land operation on Friday [18 October] captured the strategic island of Mandaitivu only 5 km south of Jaffna Town. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the security forces had also taken the island of (Pungativu). Ground troops, air force planes, and naval gunboats effectively demolished the LTTE's defenses. The sources said LTTE terrorists were on the run as the security forces continued to extend their area of control yesterday. The security forces are now in control of the islands off the coast of Jaffna, including Kayts and Karaitivu where the main naval base is located. The Palali military base and its environs and the extended defense locality at Elephant Pass stretching from the west to the east coast are also controlled by the forces.

Reports from Jaffna also stated the LTTE was so desperate for funds that terrorists were snatching gold chains worn by women. Meanwhile, a report from Batticaloa states that LTTE terrorists staged a holdup at the Kaliamma Kovil (Hindu temple) in (Poraitivu), robbed the priest of 300,000 rupees and also 200,000 rupees each from 18 businessmen who were attending the annual (?goldsmith) festival at the temple.

Forces in 'Commanding' Position

BK2110114591 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Oct 91

[Text] The security forces in two days of intensive operations around Jaffna are now strategically positioned to defeat the LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) terrorists and restore the government's authority in Jaffna. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that troops of Operation Valanpuri had hit hard at LTTE targets during the last 48 hours and captured Mandaitivu island, only five km south of the Jaffna town. The security forces were now in a commanding position in and around Jaffna. All eight islands off the coast of Jaffna stretching from Karaitivu to (Delt) and Kachchativu are now totally controlled by Sri Lankan security forces. The northwest area of the Jaffna mainland from the coastal town of Kiramali through to the port of Kankesanthurai, Tellipalai, the Palali military base, Vasavillan and several other areas are also dominated by the security forces. At the southern end of the Jaffna Peninsula, the main A-Line Highway at Elephant Pass is occupied by the security forces and camps (Iyathachi), (Moliyan) and (Vetilaikadi) have been secured by the forces. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that troops of Operation Valanpuri were yesterday clearing mine fields and consolidating their positions at Mandaitivu, Punkuditivu and Kayt where the remaining pockets of the LTTE terrorists had been cleared during the last two days. Ground troops are

also engaged in clearing mine fields in these islands which had been set by the terrorists before they fled to the Jaffna mainland by boat.

The curfew in the districts of Jaffna and Kilinochchi continues. Civilians continue to be sheltered in places of religious worship, schools and other public buildings.